

£7m appeal planned for Aintree

A £7m world-wide appeal to save the Grand National by purchasing Aintree racecourse from the owner, Mr. Bill Davies, is to be launched by the Jockey Club. An Aintree Trust, headed by Lord Derby, will handle the funds, which have to be raised by November 1.

Central America initiative awaited

Washington is awaiting the results of Sunday's elections in El Salvador before pursuing efforts to find a negotiated settlement to the conflict in Central America. Mexico is trying to arrange talks between the United States and Nicaragua.

Change of venue for Reagan

The Government has withdrawn the suggestion that President Reagan might address both Houses of Parliament in Westminster Hall during his visit in June. He will be invited instead to speak in the Royal Gallery, adjacent to the Lords.

Tory attack on GLC budget

The Conservative-controlled London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea asked the Divisional Court to declare the Greater London Council's budget for 1982-83 illegal and to force the Law Lords' ruling on the GLC's cheap fares policy.

If the SDP wins - will they be given a policy?

New candidates are confirmed

Labour's National Executive Committee has confirmed the choice of two prospective candidates to replace Mr. Frederick Mulley, MP for Sheffield, Park, and former Secretary of State for Defence, and Mr. Frank Hooley, MP for Sheffield, Heeley.

£2,600m gamble on racing

Part three of 'The Times' series on the racing industry looks at the world of gambling: how Britons wager £2,600m annually; and why, contrary to popular belief, not all bookmakers survive.

Banking rescue

The full extent of the operation by the Bank of England and the clearing banks to rescue the so-called secondary banks in 1973-75 is only now being appreciated. Margaret Reid reveals that the Bank of England set aside about £100m in its accounts for the possible cost to itself of the crisis.

State pay row

Trouble is brewing over the wage increases for chiefs of nationalized industries after the publication of a White Paper which showed that pay for state chairmen was falling further behind the private sector.

'The Times'

In earlier editions yesterday advertisements on two pages designated for overseas news and sport. This was due to production difficulties for which we apologize.

Leader page 13
Letters: On Arab unrest, from Sir Anthony Manning, and the Israeli Charge d'Affaires; cable television, from Mr. D. Widdicombe, QC, and Mr. R. J. D. Johnson; Falklands, from Air Commodore B. G. Frow

Leading articles: China and Russia; MPs' pay
Features, page 12
Julian Amery recalls Britain's lost chances in Europe; Ronald Butt says the SDP are missing their prime target: the misleading crime statistics
Obituary, page 14
Sir Keith Showering, Herr Konrad Wolf

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Begin may call early election after failure in Knesset

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 24

Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said today that there was now no alternative but to bring forward the next general election, not due to be held until 1983. Although he gave no specific date, the Prime Minister speculated that a new poll would be held within a year.

Mr Begin was speaking informally to a small group of reporters in the Israeli Parliament. He admitted frankly that he did not think his Government could survive indefinitely with the present voting balance of 60 to 60 in the 120-seat Knesset, especially as a number of key issues were soon coming up. Mr Begin emphasized his belief that a new election would strengthen the position of his right-wing Likud group over the opposition Labour Party. Recent opinion polls have shown the Government faring strongly against Labour.

A senior government official said later that among matters which had still to be decided was whether a new election would be held by a resolute withdrawal from Sinai, due on April 26—providing the Government can survive its present precarious position in Parliament.

The new atmosphere of political uncertainty was caused by last night's vote, which gave no confidence in the Government's handling of events in the occupied West Bank which was won 58-58. Mr Begin explained today that although he had wanted to resign last night, he had been overruled by his Cabinet colleagues.

An analysis of the voting shows that it was not left-wing opposition which upset Mr Begin's Government but the rightwingers who, although

outside the coalition, have usually given it their support in vital votes.

Meanwhile tension in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip continued to grow more dangerous today, with riots spreading and three more Arab youths shot dead by Israelis.

Some political observers said tonight that one purpose behind Mr Begin's remarks might be to try and scare those minority parties such as Telem, who voted against the Government last night but would be likely to suffer badly at any early poll.

Mr Shimon Peres, the Labour leader, has announced that he intends to pursue every effort to try and overthrow the Government. However, political observers think it is unlikely that Labour could form a viable alternative coalition with the present Knesset membership.

□ London: To the great irritation of the Israeli Government, a group of ten British Members of Parliament are travelling to the Middle East at the invitation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) (David Cross writes).

The fact-finding mission will enable the MPs to meet Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, as well as Arab mayors and intellectuals in Israeli-occupied territory.

Mr Nabil Ramlawi, the PLO representative in London, who was at Heathrow airport to see the MPs off yesterday, said he had heard that the Israeli Ambassador to Britain had tried to put pressure on the party not to go to the West Bank. But an Israeli Embassy spokesman has denied that any representations had been made.

New York: The United Nations Security Council was meeting tonight to try to find a way to stem the wave of violence in the West Bank. Arab youths shot, page 3

Letters, page 13

Brezhnev appeal to China for peace

From Michael Rinyon, Moscow, March 24

President Brezhnev today made a strong appeal to China to end two decades of hostility and sit down at the negotiating table to discuss a return to normal relations.

Clearly attempting to exploit China's present tensions with the United States over Taiwan, the Soviet leader declared that his country was ready for closer political and economic relations with China and would take whatever positive steps were needed.

We remember well the time when the Soviet Union and People's China were united by bonds of friendship and comradely cooperation. We have never considered the state of hostility and estrangement between our countries normal. We are prepared to come to terms, without any preliminary conditions, on measures acceptable to both sides to improve relations on the basis of mutual respect for each other's interests, non-interference in each other's affairs and mutual benefit.

Speaking in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, which is not far from the Chinese border, Mr Brezhnev said the Russians had no territorial claims on China. They were ready to resume the border talks, broken off by Peking in 1980 after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, and look for ways to strengthen trust along the Chinese-Soviet frontier.

Drawing a pointed contrast with the United States, he reminded China that the Soviet Union had never supported a 'two Chinas' policy, and had always recognized Peking's sovereignty over Taiwan.

He insisted that whatever disagreements the Russians had with China over foreign policy, they did not deny that China was indeed a communist country, and they had never tried to interfere in its internal affairs.

Mr Brezhnev was in Tashkent to award the Order of Lenin to Uzbekistan for the republic's recent agricultural success. He took advantage of his first visit to central Asia for some time to review Soviet relations with other important Asian neighbours, in particular Japan and India.

He had harsh words for the Japanese. In spite of beneficial economic relations, he said, co-operation was not nearly as extensive as it could be. For this he blamed Japanese 'imperialist' forces—clearly implying the

United States—for putting obstacles in the way of the normalization of relations. But he also accused Japan of supporting the 'hacked-neck myth' of the Soviet Union, a 'harmful lie' which was 'drawing into a maelstrom of anti-Soviet policy'.

He called on Tokyo to look again at Soviet proposals, made last year, for new confidence-building measures in the Far East, and added: 'Frankly, it is hard to understand what moral right some figures in Tokyo have to tell their people that the world about apprehensions' allegedly aroused in them by some or other actions of the USSR if they do not even wish to hear about our peace proposals.'

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Troops patrol Dacca after bloodless coup

By Leslie Plommer

Troops are patrolling parts of Dacca and a curfew is in force today after the military coup which Bangladesh had been expecting came early yesterday.

General Mohammad Hossain Ershad, aged 58, the Army Chief of Staff, is expected to address the nation soon, after declaring himself martial law administrator in a 35-minute speech on Dacca radio. He cited corruption and infighting in the ruling Bangladesh National Party as reasons for the Army's move.

There has been no official word of the ageing President Abdur Shukur, who has been dismissed with his ministers and cabinet, since he made a short and emotional radio statement before General Ershad spoke.

There are no reports of fighting or bloodshed and the country now is waiting for General Ershad to select his promised civilian President and advisory council.

The general opened one telephone line to London yesterday to speak to his close friend Mr Shams-ud Doba, Bangladesh High Commissioner, who said he 'sounded tired'.

New leader, page 6



The Queen, talking to nursing staff when she opened the Alexandra wing of the London Hospital, Whitechapel, yesterday (Report, Page 5).

Informers crippling IRA, says RUC chief

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Chief Constable of the RUC declared yesterday that terrorists in the province were reeling from the blows inflicted upon them by informers whose evidence had led to the charging of almost 200 terrorists who were mainly members of the IRA and Irish National Liberation Army.

Sir John Hermon, although denying that the police offered sums of £50,000 or more for their information did not take the opportunity to deny that some payments are being made. In a rare interview he said: 'We have been in the business of combating terrorism for many years and of course we deal in information.'

The Chief Constable added that people giving evidence on conviction could be offered a safe haven from Provisional IRA killers. Sir John refused to say that the battle against terrorism in Ulster was being won but he added: 'The terrorists are becoming desperate. What will win this will be the responsibility and support of the total community north and south of the border.'

Since last autumn the security forces in the north and south have had increasing success with defectors in the north, now believed to number 15, giving information that has led to the arrest of hundreds of terrorists causing serious problems within their organizations.

Much of this information has led to arms and ammunition finds in border areas. Within the next two days at least 15 men are to appear in courts on charges ranging from membership of the INLA to possession of explosives and attempted murder.

Apart from the information being given by informers, the Garda in the republic have also had a series of successes in the past eight weeks, among them the discovery of arms and ammunition on six occasions in border areas. They have also arrested and charged Gerard Tuile, who

Scarman, Lane criticize ethnic crime figures

By Hugh Noyes, Parliamentary Correspondent

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord Scarman, Justice, and Lord Scarman, author of the report on the Brixton riots, yesterday joined forces in the Lords to speak of the dangers threatening society from the rising crime rate. During a debate on law and order, the two judges, among the most senior in Britain, criticized the Metropolitan Police's decision to publish statistics giving the ethnic origins of certain categories of criminal.

Without directly mentioning those figures Lord Lane said that statistics were mostly misleading and largely unhelpful. Lord Scarman said he agreed wholly with Lord Lane. Criminal statistics were more unreliable than most, he said.

In what looked like a reference to the explanation from the Government that the statistics were issued in the interests of getting at the truth, Lord Scarman pointed out that statistics were a morass and that there were other paths to safety than the statistical path.

Both also spoke powerfully in support of the police and of the need for public support for the police. The Lord Chief Justice appealed for the support of the law-abiding citizen, pointing out that nothing could do more to destroy the efficacy of the police than the undermining of their authority by people who ought to know better.

Lord Scarman said he had heard and experienced enough since this report to indicate to him that any of his recommendations were wrong or that his analysis was faulty.

Emphasizing that it was

Parliament, page 4

Papal visit 'backed by half the country'

By Nicholas Timmins

One in eight people disapprove of the Pope's visit to Britain, a Gallup Poll survey conducted for the Roman Catholic newspaper The Universe showed yesterday. While the views of those claiming allegiance to the Anglican churches—the Church of England, the Church of Scotland and the Church in Wales—broadly reflect the national opinion, attitudes in the free churches are more sharply divided. Fifty-three per cent of those describing themselves as Free Church approve of the visit but 19 per cent disapprove.

In the Anglican churches 12 per cent disapprove, while 48 per cent support the visit. Nationally, 50 per cent support it.

Among those describing themselves as Roman Catholics, opinion, not surprisingly, is overwhelmingly in favour, 85 per cent approving the visit and 12 per cent disapproving. Only 11 per cent of Roman Catholics held neither opinion, against a third in the national sample.

The survey, of 1,032 people, was held over the days immediately after the Archbishop of Canterbury was shipped down in Liverpool on 31st on 11, an event that might have heightened fears over the wisdom of the visit.

The prospect of the visit causing trouble, or aggravating the Irish problem, was far the most common reason given for opposing it, and featured in 27 per cent of the reasons given for disapproval. The next most common reason—20 per cent—was that it was a waste of money.

Disapproval of the visit because Britain was a Protestant country, or because the respondents did not like the Roman Catholic Church, accounting for 15 per cent of the reasons given for disliking the visit. Age, sex and class had little bearing on reaction to the visit, but there were notable regional differences.

The poll implies that the enthusiasm for it is warmest in the North-west, where he got 60 per cent approval, with the Roman Catholic population, and Manchester. In that region 64 per cent approved of the visit and only 5 per cent disapproved, against 12 per cent nationally.

Approval was lowest in the North-east at 40 per cent, but disapproval was highest in London (19 per cent) and Wales (18 per cent). Scotland, despite its strong Presbyterian tradition, matched almost exactly the national figures, with 50 per cent approving the visit and 12 per cent disapproving.

Of the 13 per cent who said they attended church once a week or more often, 75 per cent supported the visit. Even among that group, however, 14 per cent—marginally more than the national figure—disapproved, suggesting, Gallup said, that the group feel very strongly about the visit.

Among those who said they never went to church, 42 per cent of the sample, 37 per cent approved of the visit and 13 per cent disapproved.

Attempt to calm fears, page 5

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

17 arrested in drug squad raids

Seventeen people were last night being questioned by detectives investigating drug smuggling after police and Customs and Excise officers, some of the armed, staged a series of coordinated swoops on Heathrow airport and houses throughout the country.

Cannabis and cocaine believed to be worth at least £30,000 was seized after a plane from Johannesburg landed at Heathrow.

Meanwhile other officers from various regional crime squads raided houses in co Durham, Kent, London and Lancashire. Nine women and eight men were arrested. A spokesman for the Number Five Regional Crime Squad, based at Hatfield, Hertfordshire, said they were investigating an international drug-smuggling ring centred in Lancashire and involving armed robberies carried out to finance the drug ring.

Turkey workers reject pay offer

Striking workers at Bernard Matthews turkey plants in East Anglia yesterday rejected in a secret ballot the company's latest pay offer, which would have added £7 to the basic wage of £57.71p. Mr Jack Boddy, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, immediately asked Mr Matthews for fresh talks.

Fowler to join in nurses' pay talks

Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, will meet nurses' leaders for pay talks in London on Monday. He agreed to the talks after receiving an urgent request from the nurses' staff side.

Loaders strike at Gatwick

Volunteers helped to unload British Caledonian aircraft at Gatwick yesterday when loaders and tug drivers went on strike over the disciplining of a worker for alleged pilfering. Substitute drivers were called in, but many flights were delayed or cancelled. British Caledonian said efforts were being made to resolve the dispute.

Girl improves

Sandra Radley, aged 17, the Scunthorpe girl who had a leg sewn back on by surgeons on Monday, continued to make satisfactory progress at Withington Hospital, Manchester, yesterday.

'Bell tolls for thee' TUC warns firms

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders yesterday demanded that employers should "stand up and be counted" on the Government's Employment Bill, going through parliament, and Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, warned companies: "ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee".

Giving the go-ahead for the labour movement's biggest campaign for more than a decade, the TUC General Council said that unions that were "attacked through the courts while pursuing justified objectives" would have the backing of other affiliated unions, and employers must face the risk that industrial relations would be gravely threatened.

A novel aspect of the unions' battle against the labour law reform is an assault on public opinion. One day in May union members will distribute several million copies of a leaflet explaining the dangers of the new legislation to the general public at focal points such as railway stations, shopping precincts and factory gates.

"The trade union movement is now gearing itself up for the most intensive period of campaigning for over ten years. In particular, unions are warning employers with whom they deal of the danger of seeking to use the anti-union weapons the Government is offering to them."

"Employers can do themselves, and the country, a favour by telling the Government that they don't need or want this disruptive legislation before it is too late. The union is looking after his own interests can relish another bruising and damaging period of industrial conflict resulting from ill conceived and provocative legislation. The Bill should be scrapped before it is counted on the Government's Employment Bill, going through parliament, and Mr Len Murray, the TUC general secretary, warned companies: "ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee".

Gormley says time will moderate Scargill

By Our Labour Editor

Time will moderate Mr Arthur Scargill, the militant left-wing president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and make him more susceptible to compromise, Mr Joseph Gormley, the outgoing pitman's leader, predicts yesterday.

In an interview with the Press Association Mr Gormley kept up his campaign against the left, saying: "If they want to get their socialist policies accepted they will have to give over frightening people's death."

The retiring NUM president replying to recent attacks on him from the militants on his executive, said: "In my opinion they were venting their spleen on the fact that I have been one of the biggest bugsbears to them for so many years before Arthur Scargill ever came on the scene — before he was bloody dreamt of."

"They try to presume that they are the protectors of the working class, and all that tripe. But they cannot be the protectors of the working class when all they know is industrial action. You should not walk about with a chip on your shoulder all the time."



Police Federation staff at Surbiton, Surrey, yesterday counting the replies, said to be more than 100,000, to the federation's newspaper advertisements calling for the restoration of capital punishment. All but about 200 were in favour.

Hillhead by-election

Battle of issues, not personalities

From Jonathan Wills, Glasgow

Glasgow looked a dismal city in the bitter days of January when Mr Roy Jenkins arrived to seek the Social Democratic Party nomination and persuade the Liberal not to stand in the by-election. In the sunny spring weather of the last week of the campaign, Glasgow has looked beautiful, in parts, despite the ravages of time, grime and some of the most hideous modern architecture in Europe.

The devastated townscape in parts of Glasgow is the responsibility of generations of Labour councillors. The Labour Party has been mugged back to the old issues that divide Hillhead: unemployment, nuclear weapons, law and order, education cuts and devaluation, mostly in that order.

That is ground of the establishment parties' choosing. If the voters believe that government economic policies will eventually work, if they want to keep nuclear weapons, stay in the EEC and back the hard-liners on law and order, they will vote for Mr Gerald Malone, the Conservative and Unionist candidate.

If they want a reformed Labour Party, purged of its undemocratic internal customs, and committed to making Labour governments do what they say they will do, then Mr Wiseman is the man. If they have grown cynical about both there is a third choice in the person of Mr George Leslie, who has fought a brilliant and determined campaign to rescue a once endangered species, the Scottish National Party.

Then there is Mr Jenkins, the breaker of moulds. Mr Jenkins has "weight" but detailed questioning has revealed a disturbing degree of equivocation that is very much in the mould of the Butskellite politics of the 1950s.

Man in the centre if votes are tied

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Robert Calderwood, the returning officer for today's by-election at Glasgow, Hillhead, faces an uneasy task if the result turns out to be as close as the polls are predicting. If a recount, or a succession of them, are necessary Mr Calderwood is the man responsible in law for deciding when the counting has to stop and a result declared. Ultimately he could order the candidates to draw lots in the event of a tied vote.

Mr Calderwood will be guided tonight by the rules for the conduct of parliamentary elections laid down in the second schedule to the Representation of the People Act, 1949.

Rule 47 stipulates that a candidate or his election agent may, if present when the counting or recounting of votes is completed, require the returning officer to have the votes recounted or again recounted. "but the returning officer may refuse to do so if in his opinion the request is unreasonable."

It adds that "no step shall be taken on the completion of the counting or any recount of votes until the candidates and election agent present at the completion thereof have been given a reasonable opportunity to exercise the right conferred by this rule."

But it is rule 50, entitled Equality of Votes to which Mr Calderwood will be hoping he does not have to have recourse.

It states: "Where, after the counting of the votes (including any recount) is completed, an equality of votes is found to exist between any candidates and the addition of a vote would entitle any of those candidates to be declared elected, the returning officer shall decide forthwith between those candidates by lot, and proceed as if the candidate on whom the lot falls had received an additional vote."

Yesterday his office in Glasgow was sanguine about such a prospect, saying that he would face it if it arose and that the method of choosing by lot had not been decided.

Mr Calderwood can take comfort from the fact that such a situation has not arisen since 1918. It is recorded, however, that in 1886, after both the Conservative and Liberal candidates received 3,049 votes in Ashford-under-Lyne, the returning officer, Mr James Walker, gave a casting vote for Mr John Addison, the Conservative, who was duly returned.

Recounts have been comparatively rare in recent by-elections. The record number at general elections is seven, the first in October 1964 when Mr Dennis Hobden (Labour) eventually won at Brighton, Kempton, by seven votes.

The second was perhaps the most spectacular, when Sir Hamar Nicholls was elected MP for Peterborough by three votes in April 1966.

At Ilkeston, Derbyshire, in 1931 the count commenced immediately after the close of polling and went on to 2.30am when, after four recounts, a fifth was demanded. The returning officer adjourned the count until 10.30 am and after a further two hours Mr Abraham John Flint was declared elected by two votes, the narrowest majority since the introduction of universal suffrage in 1918.

Science report

Energy of the pancake stars

By the Staff of "Nature"

A spectacular new addition has just been made to the extraordinary events that theoretical physicists believe take place when stars fall into the massive black holes at the centre of distant galaxies and quasars.

According to Dr B. Carter and Dr J. Lummett, of the Paris Observatory, some of those stars become flattened into a pancake shape by tidal forces and explode. In those circumstances the energy released may be even more than has been believed hitherto.

Quasars are the most energetic extragalactic objects known. Most astronomers now believe that they are extremely distant objects emitting vast quantities of energy. The light from quasars has been seen to vary over periods of a day or less, leading theorists to deduce that the power source must be as small as the distance that light can travel in that time.

That implies that an amount of radiation equivalent to that emitted by billion of our suns is coming from a volume of space not much larger than that enclosing our solar system. Closer to us certain "active" galaxies also appear to have small nuclei radiating great amounts of energy.

The explanation for those phenomena favoured at present is that a large amount of matter, much of it in the form of stars, is falling into a massive central black hole. Black holes are thought to represent the evolutionary end-point of some stars. After such stars have stopped producing energy by nuclear fusion they collapse, and as not even the strength of the matter of which they consist is sufficient to resist this gravitational attraction they go on collapsing beyond the point where the "escape velocity" exceeds that of light.

In the cases of quasars and Seyfert galaxies the masses of the central black holes are thought to be many millions (even billions) of suns.

At the centres of galaxies, stars are far more densely distributed than in our own neighbourhood. In the presence of a massive but compact black hole, the stars will be torn apart by tidal forces caused by the changes in the pull of gravity across their diameters.

Other cases stars orbiting at high velocities about the black hole will collide and be destroyed. In both instances the gaseous debris will fall into the star, becoming tremendously heated in the process and giving off the energy we observe.

The theory of Dr Carter and Dr Lummett predicts another possible fate: They have examined the fates of certain types of stars as they enter the "Roche radius" of the black hole, the point at which tidal forces become large enough possibly to break them apart.

Some "compressible" stars, they believe, will respond to tidal and other forces by changing shape to that of a pancake, although that shape lasts only for a short time, the internal temperature of the star rises and a nuclear detonation results.

In the process a large amount of radiation will be emitted and the gaseous debris will be ejected at high velocity, some into orbit around the region altogether. The authors speculate that the resulting gas clouds may even undergo subsequent nuclear explosions.

Whether such phenomena can be detected remains to be seen. Only certain types of stars moving in certain orbits will experience such catastrophic fates. Nobody knows in detail what stars or other forms of matter make up these distant objects or how they behave. However, ground-based telescopes are now approaching the point where the structure of galactic nuclei and quasars can be resolved.

Source: *Nature*, Vol 296, page 211, (March 18), 1982. © *Nature-News Service*, 1982.

CORRECTION

The campaign against rape in marriage, reported on page 16, was organized by the Women's Aid Federation, Women against Violence against Women, and Rights of Women.

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Science report

Energy of the pancake stars

by the Staff of "Nature"

A spectacular new discovery has been made at the extraordinary energy levels of the "pancake stars". The discovery was made by the Staff of "Nature".

The discovery was made by the Staff of "Nature". The discovery was made by the Staff of "Nature".

Study shows that mugging is extremely rare

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Though mugging is greatly feared, it is extremely rare and few victims are seriously injured, a report in this week's *New Society* of an official Home Office study says.

The Home Office team looked at areas where mugging was most common in London, Manchester and Birmingham. Mr Malcolm Ramsey, a Home Office research officer, says that men were more often victims of muggings than women (44 per cent), and young people aged under 30 (45 per cent) more than pensioners (14 per cent).

In Liverpool and Manchester white people were responsible for a greater proportion of the muggings than were blacks. Only in Birmingham, where there was the greatest proportion of less serious offences, did blacks predominate.

Overall the assailants were black in fewer than half the attacks. But it would be a mistake to see mugging as necessarily being a type of crime committed by blacks, Mr Ramsey says.

In the centre of Southampton, a city with a substantial ethnic minority, Home Office research showed that only one of 21 muggings there in 1980 involved a black at-

tacker. The rest were the work of whites.

Legally there is no such thing as mugging. For the purposes of the study mugging was defined as "open, or usually brief, confrontations in the street between strangers, involving a willingness to use force rather than stealth". No precise figures of muggings can be calculated on a national basis.

Recently both robberies and thefts from the person have been recorded in increasing numbers. Some robberies are from banks or other businesses, and many thefts from the person are merely surreptitious pickpocketings. The rise may partly reflect a greater willingness to report such offences to the police, but it is likely that there has been a substantial increase in the underlying rate of the crimes.

Even so, the level of robberies encompassing the more serious muggings, recorded by the police in 1980 was only 30 per 100,000 of the total population in England and Wales.

Amnesty's leadership challenged

By Michael Horsnell

The dispute between members of Amnesty International's British section over the appointment of Mr Jeremy Thorpe as director will continue on Saturday, when an emergency resolution of no confidence in the organization's council, which appointed the former leader of the Liberal Party last month, will be proposed.

Sir Michael Williams, the chairman of the February 1982 Action Committee, which was formed to reverse the appointment, is expected to propose the motion at the annual general meeting of the section in Roehampton, south-west London.

The motion, which may force the resignation of Mr Thorpe, the chairman, and the 25-member council, is believed to allege that the British section can no longer function effectively under the council's governance.

Mr Michael, a regional coordinator for Amnesty International in the Middle East, said yesterday: "It is self-evident there was considerable feeling about the appointment of Mr Thorpe and this will carry on to the AGM."

Mr Thorpe, a leading supporter of Mr Thorpe, who resigned earlier this month in the face of an overwhelming vote to oust him from the £14,000-a-year job, would not comment yesterday.

SEAT BELT TV FILM BLACKED

By Kenneth Gosling

Government information films on television, which include the clunk-chuck seat-belt campaign, have been blacked by the technicians' union over redundancy in the Central Office of Information's film and television division.

The redundancies of 26 members of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians are due to take effect next Wednesday after a government decision to hand to a private firm work previously undertaken by the CoI. The estimated saving for 1982-83 is £105,000.

Water war ahead, says Plaid Cymru

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Plaid Cymru claimed yesterday that thousands of people throughout Wales were prepared to face court action rather than pay "unjust water charges".

The party launched its campaign against the Welsh Water Authority four weeks ago in spite of warnings that the action could lead to even higher bills for consumers.

Party strategists are determined to intensify the protest, pointing out that the campaign has already attracted more support than the widespread acts of civil disobedience that forced the Government into its first demonstrable U-turn over the Welsh language issue.

The campaign has been undertaken because consumers in Wales are charged up to twice as much for their water as people in England who receive their supplies from reservoirs in the principality.

The whole question of Welsh water has been examined by the Parliamentary Committee on Welsh Affairs and its report, to be published next month, is expected to criticize some aspects of the authority's operations.

In its evidence to the committee, Plaid Cymru said that Wales should be paid £40m for water exported to English authorities. That is more than 250 thousand gallons for the 240 million gallons a day that is "exported".

The document submitted to the committee by the Wales CBI says that the authority's failure to control pumping levels may be attributed to its policy of compulsory redundancies.

Its evidence showed that just five factories in Wales could pay more for water abstraction for industrial use than 20 factories in areas covered by four English water authorities.



Church paintings restored

A member of an Anglo-German team of picture restorers at work repairing part of the eighteenth-century wall painting and the ceiling painting, "The Adoration" by Laguerre at St Lawrence Church, Tottenham, Middlesex (above). Wall-painting conservation being such a small and highly specialized craft the Council for the Care of Churches asked for help from Herr Wolfgang Gartner, of Tübingen, who leads a team of restorers working in southern Germany.

St Lawrence church (right) was rebuilt in 1715 by James Bridges, first Duke of Chandos, in the Continental baroque style, and is considered unique among English parish churches for its architecture and interior decoration.

Thewood carving was carried out by Grinling Gibbons, the Englishman trained in Rotterdam, and all the artists employed on the decoration, including Laguerre, Mellucci and Francesco Sletter, were brought to Tottenham from abroad. George Frederick Handel was for a time the musician at this church.

Stansted 'too far out for passengers'

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

It would be far more convenient for most passengers if no third London airport was built and Heathrow and Gatwick were expanded to meet the foreseeable demand, the Air Transport Users' Committee says in a submission to the Stansted inquiry.

That does not mean automatic endorsement of the counter-proposal for a fifth terminal at Heathrow, the committee says, though that may be the only practicable course.

The committee is the statutory consumer body for air travellers. Its case is that two airports are better than three, and that passengers would prefer not to travel 30 miles from central London to Stansted when they could go only 13 to Heathrow or 24 to Gatwick.

The committee does not think it far-sighted to scatter airports around London the way the Victorians scattered main-line railway stations.

The British Airports Authority says the Heathrow terminal five scheme would cost £57m more than the Stansted scheme. But that is a difference of only 10 per cent in total costs, and since all figures are approximate it could be several percentage points out.

In any case, the money saved by the CAA in building a new airport 30 miles from London would soon be spent by passengers getting out there.

Although it may take longer to expand Heathrow than to build a Stansted, increases in passenger demand are unlikely to be as great as was believed a few years ago, it says. Last year air travel to and from London hardly changed.

With a new fourth terminal being built at Heathrow and a second at Gatwick, by 1989 those airports will be capable of handling 64 million passengers a year, 73 per cent more than last year's level of 37 million.

Urban development 'threat to farming'

The difficulties of farming on the edge of urban areas were vividly recounted yesterday at the Stansted inquiry (John Young writes).

Garry Harrison found that corruption was rife when he was promoted to a responsible job at the Department of the Environment. He admitted taking £3,000 in cash bribes and domestic equipment worth £3,700 for his £60,000 house, from various contractors.

Britain 'lagging in biotechnology'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Britain is falling behind in the development of the new biotechnology industries, the Commons Select Committee on Education, Science and the Arts was told yesterday.

The Government's failure to lay the foundation for progress in that field came under severe attack from four fellows of the Royal Society, an organisation that is recognized as a hallmark of moderate opinion.

Their catalogue of complaints clearly impressed the parliamentarians.

The shortcomings they listed can be divided into four categories: The failure of the Government to act on recommendations made two years ago by the Cabinet's advisory board on research; The undermining of basic research programmes in universities on which the future of biotechnology is based; The discouragement of university and industry collaboration in a technology that is advancing very rapidly in the United States, Japan and some EEC countries; and finally the loss of first class scientists to the United States and the Continent.

Sir Arnold Burgen, Professor Patricia Clarke, Professor Brian Hartley and Professor M. D. Lilly, the four fellows, suggested that perhaps a lack of appreciation by ministers of the complicated and uniquely British way of organizing research and teaching might explain in part the havoc being caused.

Nevertheless, their various arguments pointed unequivocally to the conclusion that the United Kingdom was slipping behind in a new technology almost before it had begun, and the schemes that have been made would be lost in much the same way as the country lost its position among leaders in microelectronics.

The Government is being asked to provide a public fund to enable objects at the forthcoming inquiry into the introduction to Britain of the American type of pressurized water reactor (PWR) to put their case properly.

The request, on behalf of a number of environmental groups, is being made to Mr Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy, by the Friends of the Earth.

A letter to the minister from Mr Steven Billcliffe, the Friends' director, says the response to suggestions for public funding has been that objects have yet to make out a case for support.

He says it is difficult to assess the scope and cost of the hearing, planned under proposals to build a PWR at Sizewell, Suffolk. It depends on the final terms of the inquiry, the nature of the documentation on the Sizewell PWR design that the Central Electricity Generating Board and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate intend to publish, and the unpredictable length of the inquiry.

Man who killed sex shops in Atlanta

By David Nicholson-Lord

Once upon a time there were 44 dirty bookshops in the United States city of Atlanta, Georgia. Now there is none. Yesterday Mr Hinson McAuliffe explained why.

It was purely, Mr McAuliffe said, a question of good law, good law enforcement officers, good prosecutors and good judges. The British, he clearly implied, though a fine and good people, were deficient in certain of those respects. But he was far too polite to say so.

Mr McAuliffe, aged 60, is a Baptist, a family man and a former US Army corporal stationed in Britain during the war. He looks not unlike President Eisenhower. More important, he is the man who eradicated sex shops from the face of central Atlanta.

Mr McAuliffe said: "Within five years if present trends continue, the whole of the United States could be similarly relieved."

He was invited to Britain and introduced to the press yesterday by Mrs Mary Whitehouse, honorary president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association, which he will address on Saturday.

Today he will speak to MPs and peers in advance of the second reading of the Pornography Bill in the Lords.

The invitation to Mr McAuliffe, who is Solicitor General and thus chief prosecutor in Fulton County, covering Atlanta, was designed to emphasize to Britain its "disastrous" lack of control over pornography.

Mrs Whitehouse said: "She knew from 'absolutely impeccable' sources that Mafia money was behind much of the British pornography industry."

According to Mr McAuliffe, the launching point for his drive against the sex shops was Georgia state law in 1975 incorporating a revised ruling from the US Supreme Court. That changed the obscenity test for material from "utterly without redeeming social value" to "lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value."

Armed with the new law, unopposed by any religious lobby and in the face of some harsh press treatment, Mr McAuliffe sent out his undercover investigators to do battle.

The first stage was straightforward obscenity prosecutions. Fines were raised from \$300 to \$5,000. Next came prosecutions for nuisance, assaults and immoral acts committed in shops. Trade fell off when shopkeepers were dismantled by order.

Finally Mr McAuliffe had his men bring involuntary bankruptcy petitions against pornographers, forcing them to disclose their assets. That broke the back of resistance, he said. The 20 remaining sex shops closed down.

Mr McAuliffe thought that most of the two million people in Atlanta were happier as a result.

Misconceptions were rife about the deep South's so-called bible belt, Mr McAuliffe added. There are so many people in a position to do what I did here who feel they don't have the backing of the public.

Police chief charged

Sri Lanka's deputy chief of police was granted unconditional bail at Marlborough Street Court, London, yesterday accused of shoplifting from Selfridges in Oxford Street. Mr Tyrrell Gunatillaka, aged 55, who is in London for open heart surgery, is to appear at Wells Street court on Tuesday.

Falling horse killed jockey

Mr John Thorne, a top jockey, died after his horse, Bend A Knee, somersaulted and fell on him, an inquest in Oxford heard yesterday. Mr Thorne, aged 55, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, was in a point-to-point meeting near Banbury, Oxfordshire, he died in hospital.

A verdict of accidental death was recorded on Mr Thorne who finished second in last year's Grand National.

Soccer fan fined

A Brighton football supporter aged 16 who threw a fishing weight during a first division match at Michael Robinson, the Brighton and Irish Republic player, scoring his face, was ordered to pay £200 and £50 compensation by a juvenile court at Hove, East Sussex, yesterday.

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Alliance Building Society

announces that the following rates of interest will apply to Share and Deposit Accounts from 1st April, 1982:-

Net per annum	Gross equivalent at 30% income tax rate
8.75%	12.50%
10.00%	14.29%
10.25%	14.64%
10.75%	15.36%
11.75%	16.79%

Interest on other Share and Deposit Accounts, including previous issues of Term Shares and Extra Interest Shares, will be reduced by 100% net p.a. and - in new issues - by 10% net p.a. from 1st April 1982. Share and Deposit Accounts remain unchanged.

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Pornography is leading youngsters into crime

LAW AND ORDER

Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, in his maiden speech in the House of Lords, said it would be a dereliction of duty if the courts started treating recidivist young burglars with kid gloves.

Speaking in the debate on law and order, he defended judges against what he called recent heavy and hysterical criticism on sentences they had passed.

He said it was impossible for the judges to be right and there was a limit to what judges could do.

He called for action against the huge increase in the sale of pornography traceable to glossy imports, large quantities of which came into the country disguised as Danish bacon or Dutch tomatoes. It found its way into the hands of young people and the increase in results seen increasing every day.

Lord Renton (C) in opening the debate, said that there was growing public anxiety about the crime wave, more especially because of the great increase in burglaries from homes and of street muggings.

Anxiety was further increased because only 38 per cent of the offences in England and Wales brought to the notice of the police had been cleared up in 1981, compared with 40 per cent or more in other recent years.

However, more than a million cases had been cleared up in England and Wales, compared with fewer than 900,000 in 1980.

Crime had increased remorselessly over the years in spite of efforts to defeat it by having more and better equipped police. It was especially distressing that 50 per cent of the offences were under 21. Funding, he said, was not the answer.

Unemployment is not an excuse, he said, and I doubt whether it is ever a major cause.

Expenditure on police forces was going up from £1,150m in 1979-80 to £2,314m in 1982-83, slightly more than double in more than taking account of inflation.

His achievements and policies were a great credit to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary. He had not been responsible for last year's increase in crime.

But for the measures he has taken (he said) it would have been even worse. He has gained the confidence of the police and their morale is high.

The police deserved and needed the full support of Parliament and people all the time. There were those outside the law who wanted to destroy society, and one of the principal methods was by breaking the morale of the police. As Mr Pat Wall had said plainly and publicly, they would like to get rid of all judges and police. But that would not put the country right.

Everyone should have a strong interest in encouraging the police. Their establishments should be reviewed, as a high priority. That had last been done some years ago.

All local police committees should support their forces without interfering with their operational methods. The police were professionals and experienced and it was not for amateurs, even democratically elected ones, to attempt to direct them.

There were people who felt like forming vigilantes but they should be discouraged. However, under common law, everyone had a duty to help the police when asked. If people wanted to give active help, they should apply to become special constables.

The great silent majority could help by bringing up their children decently with love and firmness which were interdependent. They could not have one without the other. Parents should set an example of sober good behaviour.

Teachers also had a part to play. They could encourage the police to give talks in schools and that might lead to better

understanding and cooperation from the children.

We have a Home Secretary (he said) who is doing what he can and are the police. Now it is up to the rest of us.

Lord Elystan Morgan (Lab), for the Opposition, said that the police had a wide-ranging duty, to enable society to indulge in its normal peaceful occupations. Suppression and control of crime was an important part, but only one part of that comprehensive duty.

It was fallacious to suggest that there was a racialist basis for crime, but that was the impression given and, it seemed, carefully fostered by the publication by the Metropolitan Police a week or so ago of the analysis of figures for robbery and other violent crime broken down on a colour basis.

As an analysis it was wholly misleading. Whether or not it was based on sound statistics, it ran a high danger of doing so.

To be accountable to the public, the police must be answerable to elected people who were themselves in turn responsible to public feeling. Against this principle, the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and his proposal that he should be further action across the board and replaced by people appointed bureaucratically, should be looked at with great trepidation.

All the statistics were against the argument that the reintroduction of capital punishment would deter crime.

He was shocked by the statement made by Mrs Thatcher, the Prime Minister, last week that the Government was not between a high level of crime and the highest level of unemployment.

Did she expect that millions of homes could be visited by the plight of actual or threatened unemployment with all its frustration and despair that this entailed without spawning the conditions for added crime?

Governments, often to the right, were often tempted to lash the public into frothy fury over fears for law and order. Such a policy could be powerful.

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Lane: Impossible to be right.

Scarman: Report was right.

So long as western society was prepared to tolerate economic and social disadvantage and failed to win the respect of the young generation to the extent that it did, it must be prepared to expect quite a high percentage of crime.

Cowardly attacks must attract severe penalties but even if crimes such as this, there should be a constructive element. There should be an experiment in fact the assailant up to his victim with a view to his feeling some shame, making an apology or making some reparation.

Not least among those who deserved support was the Home Secretary himself. Mr Whitelaw had been under intense pressure to change course and he should be commended for his courage and determination to stand by his principles.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said he disagreed with Lord Elystan Morgan's criticism of the state of the police. He said that the police were in a difficult position, but he believed that they were doing their best.

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Japan pressed to lift trade barriers

EUROPE

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Lord Privy Seal, reporting on the meeting of foreign ministers of the European Community held in Brussels on Monday and Tuesday, said that they endorsed the view that relations with Japan remained a serious concern. They agreed, he said, a comprehensive approach to the problems. This included efforts to persuade Japan to modify its trade and economic policies, a renewed call for tangible assurances of effective moderation of Japanese exports in sensitive sectors and an agreement not to discuss them further at a special meeting of foreign ministers to be held on Saturday, April 3.

The whole of Tuesday was taken up with discussion of the May 30 mandate and in particular the problem of Britain's budget contribution.

The Presidents of the Commission and the Council (the went on) put forward on a personal basis some new ideas on a method of dealing with the budget problems. These were greeted with real interest by ministers of the member states who agreed not to discuss them further at a special meeting of foreign ministers to be held on Saturday, April 3.

Mr Eric Heffer, chief Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said it would be useful if the Lord Privy Seal could read into the record what was on the front page of the *Times* which seems to be better informed than MPs on these matters.

It is time (he added) that we had some idea what is precisely being proposed on the budget. The danger is that we are going to have a situation where we could end up with a shoddy deal and possibly a self-out on the Community.

We have read in some newspapers that the Irish Foreign Minister has said that Lord Carrington, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, accepted that there would be no linkage between farm prices and the budget. We have also heard that the Secretary of State did not accept this. I would like to know the answer.

It would be wrong if we had a situation where there was an agreement on the budget—possibly a shoddy deal—and at the same time an increase in prices of the farm gate which would put up prices of food for the British people in a big way.

Mr Atkins has quoted a number of sources who say that the Government is now not to believe everything he reads in the newspapers. If he does not, he should.

The discussions going on about agricultural policy and the budget reform are going forward together and will go forward in parallel as everyone has agreed. They are linked in that way.

Sir Peter Emery (Hounslow, C): For many years now the foreign ministers have been expressing at their Brussels meetings concern about trade and expansion of Japan and about the restrictions on imports into Japan. Do we not get to a stage that if we cannot get agreement to take positive action as a Community, Britain ought to take unilateral action? Mr Atkins: The Community as a body is more powerful than this country alone. I believe that is the case. It is the duty of the Government under Article 23 of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade to persuade the Japanese to liberalize their trade and economic policy.

Dr David Owen (Plymouth, Devonport, SDP): On Japan, the issue has come to a head. These discussions have gone on for many years. The import restrictions are very damaging to trade. The export penetration in certain key industries is extremely damaging for many European countries. We fully support the Government's determination to get a fair deal for Britain on the budget and its determination to link the budget contribution to the reform of the CAP.

Mr Atkins

Hume attempts to calm fears over Pope's visit

By Nicholas Timmins

The Pope's visit to Britain in May poses no threat to national or religious independence, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Archbishop of Westminster, said yesterday.

In an attempt to calm some of the more extreme anxieties about the Pope's visit, he told the Free Church Federal Council at its congress in Newcastle upon Tyne that he wanted to "allay some of the exaggerated fears and expectations which seem to be developing around this papal visit."

The Pope's visit to Canterbury would provide a new impetus to the ecumenical movement, he said, but it would be "wildly unrealistic" to expect the presence of the Pope himself to be the occasion for solving our ecumenical problems. His coming is only part of a process, a long, patient growing together, which does not admit of instant solutions.

Given with the publication next week of the Anglican/Roman Catholic International Commission's report on future relations between the churches, debate about its conclusions is likely to occupy the rest of the decade.

"Only in 1988 can the next Lambeth Conference give it due consideration. The Roman Catholic Church will

need comparable time for reflection. There should be no fears that secret deals have been struck."

The Pope was coming as "pastor and bishop and as a pilgrim for Christian unity," he poses no threat to national or religious independence.

The meeting at Canterbury would be richly significant and his presence there was itself an important step towards closer unity. But "it is unrealistic to expect that at Canterbury the Pope will resolve all the difficulties that stand in the way of a visible organic communion between ourselves and the Anglican communion."

It would, however, provide new impetus. The Pope is also to meet certain leaders of the churches from the British Council of Churches that day, Cardinal Hume said.

Delegates to the federal council declared their opposition to the use of capital punishment and urged action to reduce overcrowding in Britain's prisons (Our Newcastle Correspondent writes).

They were told by the Rev Peter Timms, a former prison governor, that society was developing a "punitive obsession." Mr Timms, a Methodist minister from London, said: "This is not the time for hysterical argument but for a carefully thought-out response."



One of 36 trees being prepared for removal yesterday from Bellahouston Park, Glasgow, to facilitate better viewing for the Pope's visit in June. It is hoped that the trees will be replanted in the autumn.

First 'off the peg' hospital sets the trend

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

A new concept in hospital design was unveiled yesterday when London's first "off-the-peg" hospital was shown to the press.

The hospital, at Newham, east London, is based on the standard design from the Department of Health and Social Security, called the nucleus design, which is geared to cheap building costs, low running expenses

and flexibility. The basic design is provided by the department for use by health authorities around the country.

It is estimated to cost a third less a sq ft to build than the highly expensive developments of the late 1960s and 1970s, such as the Royal Free Hospital and St Thomas's Hospital, London.

The basis of the design is a long, central corridor, with a series of cruciforms extending from either side, which can be built on to at a later date; hence its name, nucleus.

The basic "nucleus" is for 300 beds, getting away from the monolithic 800 to 1,000-bed hospitals, which sometimes took 15 years to build. Newham Hospital, which cost £6m at 1975 prices, or

about £20m today, is part of the North East Thames Regional Health Authority's attempt to replace the crumbling fabric of London's East End hospitals. Seventy per cent of those were built before 1920.

The Queen yesterday opened the Alexandra wing of the London Hospital, Whitechapel, east London, which cost £9m to build

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High fares worry most travellers

By Michael Bailey, Transport Correspondent

More people are dissatisfied with fares than with any other aspect of public transport, according to a survey by the National Consumer Council (NCC) published today. Of 2,000 who thought fares unreasonable, 51 per cent were bus users, 50 per cent train, 45 per cent Underground, 30 per cent taxi and 20 per cent air. But only 12 per cent were coach users.

Hardly anyone complained, because they thought it a waste of time. Either there was no one to complain to, or the complaint would be ignored, they thought.

After fares, complaints diverged sharply. Bus users were concerned most about lack of frequency, train users by dirt and discomfort, air travellers by delays and cancellations, Underground by overcrowding. Here is a sample of users' comments:

Buses: "There aren't enough buses or staff. It causes chaos and starts arguments and fighting at the bus stops."

"You get people queueing for ages. It's usually at least 25 minutes. I wait and feel glad I don't use a bus every day."

"We complained and the buses improved for a while, then got back to not turning up again. They're just not interested."

Trains: "The trains are not cleaned and cups and pieces

of paper are lying all over the place."

"The trains are appallingly filthy. The last time my husband went on a train he got some brown, gluey stuff on his suit and had to come home."

"Young hooligans spray stuff on seats and write with lipstick."

"If it wasn't more pleasant I wouldn't bother going by car. But they're so dirty."

"The other week I was in the station and it was extremely crowded. It frightened me, because a man ran down the stairs and pushed me into the wall. 'It's not acceptable' with all the visitors to London. In the evening, if I'm in a hurry, it's very, very jammed. You just have to put up with it."

"To many people couldn't get in or out when it came to my station and had to stay on and return the other way."

Train users also complained about dirty, bleak stations, poor lavatories queues and inadequate car parking.

The report is to be considered at this year's Consumer Congress opening at a Surrey University tomorrow and will set the scene for an effort by the NCC to develop a "coherent, practical transport policy for consumers" in the coming year.

Public Transport (National Consumer Council, 18 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AA, £11).

Change urged in right to divorce payment

By Frances Gibb

The abolition of a former wife's permanent right to receive maintenance payments from her divorced husband, called for in a paper published by the Bow Group yesterday.

The paper, a survey of divorce law since the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973, says there will need to be exceptions to the rule, but "in the overwhelming number of cases the time has now come to exclude an ex-wife's permanent right to maintenance."

A woman's right to claim maintenance while her former husband lives, often for many years, must conflict with the concept of the equality of the sexes, the paper says.

"In any case it should be remembered that the average time for remarriage of both spouses after divorce is only in the region of four and a half years. The right to maintenance ceases on remarriage."

With the wife's right to maintenance excluded, the paper says the courts should be more ready to divide the family assets between the spouses, and certainly once any children are grown up. At present the difficulty of recovering orders for maintenance is often immense. "The places unfair burdens

on the preoccupied and financially vulnerable mother."

The paper, written by Mr Paul Rippon, a solicitor specializing in family law, and representing his personal views, also argues or several other changes to present divorce law.

They include removing considerations of marital misconduct from the determination of financial settlements. The cause of a broken marriage lies deep in the personalities of the parties, he says, and it is difficult to determine where responsibility lies.

On the grounds for divorce, Mr Rippon recommends that the law be amended so that the court should hold the marriage to have broken down irretrievably if the petitioner satisfies the court that after the marriage breakdown the parties have lived apart for a continuous period of a year.

There should be an end to the "matrimonial offence" requirement, under which a court must be satisfied as to one of five circumstances: adultery; unreasonable behaviour; desertion; living apart for two years; or consent to a divorce; or living apart for five years. Picking up the Pieces (Bow Group, 240 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7DT, £2.00).

CHURCHES' PLEA FOR HOMELESS

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Four of Britain's main churches join today in demanding urgent government action to help single homeless people. They say rising unemployment and severe cuts in housing investment have produced a genuine crisis for thousands of citizens who are both single and homeless.

The churches, in a statement responding to the Government's recent report, Single and Homeless, are calling for extension of the right to secure accommodation in the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act to the single homeless, and for more investment in council housing programmes.

"We would remind the Secretary of State for the Environment that any Government that cuts housing investment deeply will impoverish many of its citizens, whatever else it may achieve," the statement says.

"The Government must increase resources to local authorities, particularly those in inner city areas."

The four churches, the Church of England Board for Social Responsibility, the Methodist Church Division of Social Responsibility, the Church and Society Department of the United Reformed Church and the Catholic Housing Aid Society also want the repeal of the "intentionally homeless" provisions of the Act.

SITE PLANS INQUIRY DUE TO END

By John Young

The public inquiry into two rival schemes for the redevelopment of the so-called Coin Street site, on London's South Bank, is expected to end today.

The two schemes were submitted by Greycoat Commercial Estates and by the Association of Waterloo Residents' Associations, who contended that the Greycoat project was too large and ignored local needs.

The site, which stretches eastward from the National Theatre towards Blackfriars Bridge, is regarded as one of the most important in London.

It was the subject of an earlier inquiry in 1979. The protagonists then were two residents' groups, the Heron Corporation and Commercial Properties Ltd. After Heron withdrew, Greycoat intervened, but in July, 1980, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, rejected all the plans.

The new inquiry officially opened on April 7 last but was adjourned after demonstrators, incensed by the decision of the Conservative-controlled Greater London Council at the time to sell its holdings on the site to Greycoat, shouted down the inspector, Mr Victor Radmore, who postponed the inquiry until after the GLC elections.

The inquiry finally reopened on September 8.

Rape questions 'justified'

From Our Correspondent, Norwich

Norfolk police officers accused of questioning a rape victim "like a common criminal" did their job correctly, the Police Complaints Board has decided.

That was revealed yesterday after the father of a 16-year-old girl, whose case attracted nationwide publicity when the man convicted of raping her was fined £2,000 at Ipswich Crown Court and not sent to prison, made the allegation.

He made it shortly after

watching a television documentary on Thames Valley Police's handling of a rape complaint, which also attracted widespread criticism.

At the time the girl's father alleged that "policemen are trained to pick and harass to establish the truth."

Mr George Charlton, Chief Constable of Norfolk, immediately ordered an internal investigation and referred the complaint to the Police Complaints Board in London.

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New Mitterrand law rebounds on the socialists

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, March 24

The so-called "third ballot" of the local elections took place today in the 95 departments of metropolitan France and, as expected after its decisive victory in last Sunday's second ballot, the Opposition has cornered nearly two thirds of the presidents of the *conseils généraux*, the departmental assemblies.

In the process, the Opposition had become the main beneficiary of the Socialist Government's recent decentralization law, which has greatly extended their powers and made them heads of the local executives in place of the Napoleonic prefects.

Instead of 51 departmental assemblies it held before the last elections, the conservative Opposition now controls 58, while the left-wing majority, which held 44, has dropped to 35. As a result, the Opposition also stands to increase its control over most of the 22 regional assemblies. These are partly elected by the *conseillers généraux*.

Poling for them will take place on April 15. At present, the Opposition controls 13 presidencies of regional assemblies, while the Majority commands nine. But the left is almost certain to lose control of Burgundy, upper-Normandy, and Franche-Comté.

There was uncertainty until the very last minute as to which way some *conseillers généraux* would swing, because there was a tie between right and left in five of them, and in that case, the presidency goes to the *doyen d'âge*, the oldest member.

In the department of Corsica, always a law unto itself, M Pierre Predali, a Bonapartist classified as a member of the opposition, sided with the left today to everyone's surprise, and swung the vote in favour of a left-wing *conseiller général*, because as he explained, of the Majority's positive attitude towards the island's problems.

In Corse, the electoral chief of M Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist leader, where there was a tie, a Communist became President, as expected, because he was the oldest member.

The Opposition has made no bones of its intention of using its enhanced position in the departmental assemblies as a check on the administrative action of the Government at the local level. But it feared as a result of the left's setback at the polls, a waning of the socialist enthusiasm for decentralization.

M Gaston Defferre, the Interior Minister, has, however, proved a good loser. "I shall not change any of my plans, for that is the law of democracy," he declared on television. "We did not win. The others won. They will do more than us, in more departments than we, in more of the decentralization law. I regret it, but all the better for them."

In fact, the risk of the Opposition thwarting the action of the Government at the local level is small. But the electoral fall-out in terms of regional development and the distribution of economic aid is substantial, and will weigh heavily in the municipal and regional elections next year. These will almost certainly be held under a modified system of proportional representation, instead of first-past-the-post, as at present, because President Mitterrand is committed to it, and because the results of these local elections have convinced him that PR would limit the damage to the socialists in case of a sharp swing away from the left.

Public opinion has been strangely slow to appreciate the historic significance of this break with at least three centuries of centralization.



Amnesty claimed in Tshombe hijack trial

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, March 24

The trial of Francis Bodenan accused of hijacking the aircraft which carried Moïse Tshombe, the late Congolese politician, to imprisonment and death began in Palma de Mallorca today, with a demand from the prosecution for a 20-year sentence for the defendant.

Mr Tshombe's last flight began on the Spanish Mediterranean island of Ibiza on June 30, 1967, when he boarded a chartered Hawker Siddeley 125 bound for Mallorca. The aircraft landed instead in Algiers, where he was arrested. Two years later he died in an Algerian prison, it is said, from a heart attack.

The trial, before a military court, aroused considerable interest because of suspicions of international intrigue. M Bodenan, a Frenchman, aged 48, said in pre-trial newspaper interviews that he was acting as an agent of the Zaire Government at the time of the hijacking. Mr Tshombe was then living in exile in Spain, and was suspected of planning to make a third try to seize control of the diamond-rich Katanga province.

The aircraft was owned by Gregory Air Service, a British company, and its pilots were Mr Trevor Coppleton and Mr David Taylor, two British men. In addition to Mr Tshombe and Mr Bodenan, the passengers included two Belgian men and a Belgian woman and two Spanish men.

M Bodenan's lawyer argued that his client should be acquitted, claiming that the hijacking occurred outside Spanish air space. He also said that if the charge is not dismissed, his client should be freed under the terms of the amnesty for political offenders granted by King Juan Carlos on October 15, 1977.

The Frenchman has been in the provincial prison at Palma since the end of 1979, after his extradition.

Disease blamed on E Germans

March 24. — With 2,600 cattle, sheep and pigs in Denmark already destroyed after seven outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease, East Germany was blamed today for not giving earlier warning. The Danish Agricultural Ministry said that with earlier warning "we might have been able to limit the spread of the disease".

In East Germany travel to six north-eastern districts has been banned because of the disease.

Japanese robots create new jobs

From Peter Hazelhurst Tokyo, March 24

A big Japanese trade union has found that few workers have lost their jobs since the widespread introduction of industrial robots and automated equipment.

However, a survey by the Industrial Metal Workers' Union indicates that middle-aged and elderly workers have suffered from stress when they were retrained.

The survey, which examined the effects of automation in 154 companies in the steel and machine equipment sector, shows that younger workers found it easier to adjust to retraining.

Union officials also found that automation in the clerical sectors of industry has created a need for more personnel.

Automation had led to dismissal or voluntary redundancies in only four of the 154 companies. "This was achieved because, in contrast to the structure of trade unions in the West, each Japanese company has its own company union. Each worker belongs to one company union. This means that they can be retrained quickly in new jobs when new technology is introduced into industrial plants," Dr Ichiro Yoshida, a leading social scientist, said.

The survey indicates that most industrialists were able to retain workers because automation had increased productivity.

Torture trial refused

Ankara. — The Ankara court of appeal has refused to start legal proceedings against three police officers in connection with the alleged torture of a woman politician under interrogation last year (Rasit Gulmez).

The court ruled that apart from the claims of Miss Aydin, an alleged member of a leftist underground organization, there was no evidence to support her accusations. Recently, the Turkish Government spokesman admitted that 15 politicians had died under torture as claimed by Amnesty International.

India criticized in hijack trial

Pietermaritzburg. — The presiding judge in the trial of three white alleged mercenaries charged with hijacking an Indian airliner in December in the Indian General's court for refusing to allow the pilot and co-pilot to fly in South Africa.

But despite defence objections, Mr Justice Neame granted a prosecution request for testimony to be taken from the pilots and the hijackers in the South African capital, Pretoria. The defence, led by Colonel Mike Moore, has four counts under a 1961 law carrying sentences of up to 30 years.

Fire-hit liner cuts cruises

Miami. — The SS Norway, the world's largest liner, has cut its cruises to West Germany after a fire on board last week. The fire, which broke out in the ship's engine room, caused damage to the ship's electrical system and forced it to return to port.

Finnish party loses leader

Helsinki. — The Finnish Communist Party has lost its leader, Mr Antti Kallio, who has resigned after a long illness. Mr Kallio had been the party's leader since 1971.

Border control to be eased

Madrid. — The Spanish Government has announced that border control will be eased for tourists entering the country. This is part of a series of measures to attract more tourists to Spain.

20 years for ex-minister

Barcelona. — A Spanish court has sentenced a former minister to 20 years in prison for his role in a corruption scandal. The minister was accused of misappropriating public funds.

Dutch guilders for apartheid victims

Johannesburg. — The Dutch Government has announced that it will provide financial aid to victims of apartheid in South Africa. This is part of a series of measures to support the anti-apartheid struggle.

French atom test

Paris. — The French Government has announced that it will conduct a series of atomic tests in the Pacific. This is part of a series of measures to strengthen France's nuclear deterrent.

Given more time to think, an office clerk could come up with the odd original idea.

In 1905, a young clerk in the Swiss Civil Service, a man with a mediocre academic record, wrote a paper which was to become known as the Special Theory of Relativity.

Albert Einstein had learnt to think.

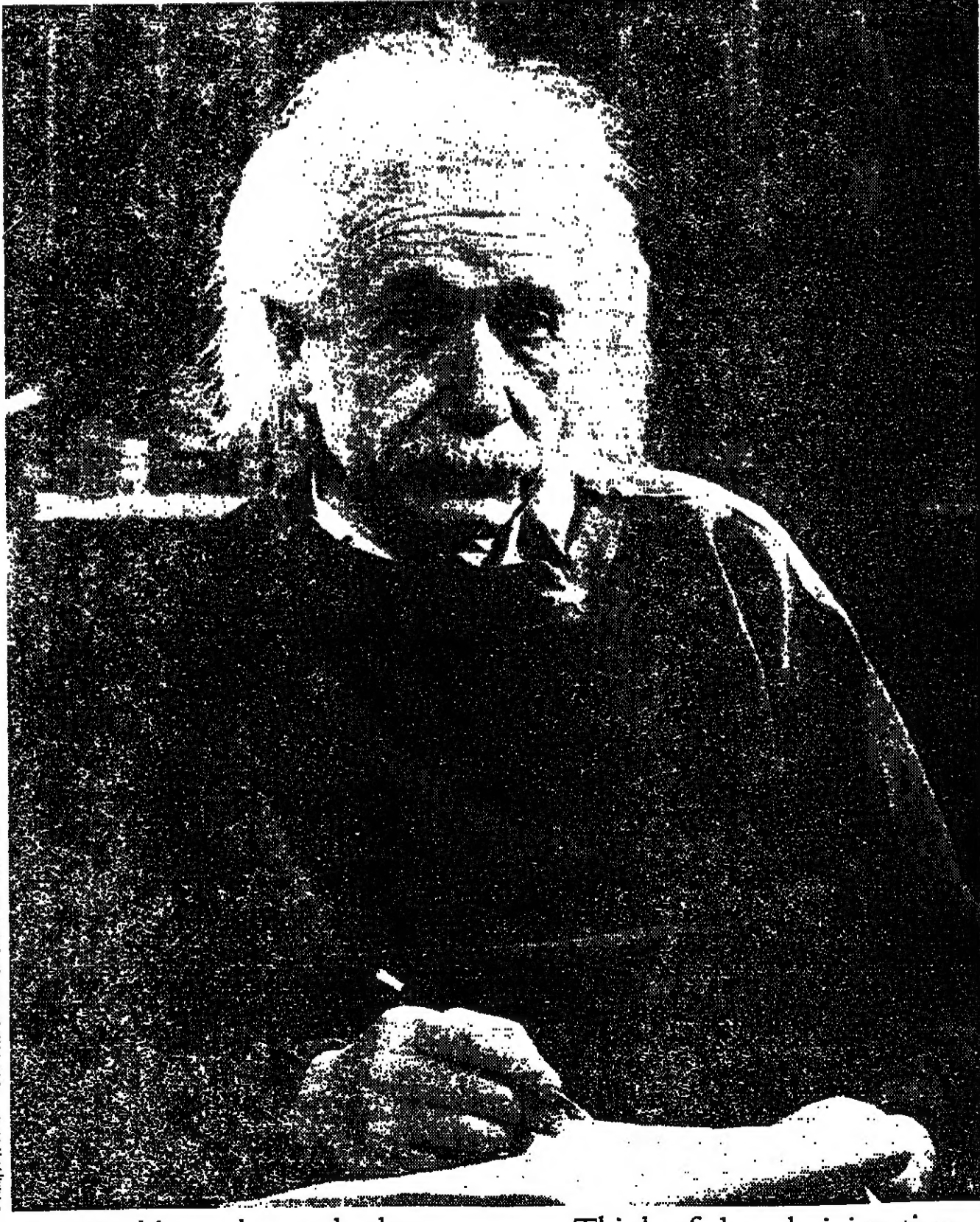
His method was to hold the problem of the moment in his mind relentlessly and without distraction.

One way he achieved this was by never bothering to commit facts to memory. He felt it would clutter his mind, needlessly. There were better uses, he thought, for the human brain.

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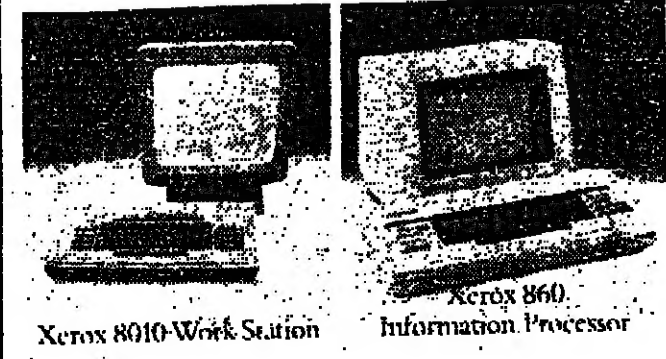
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Shuttle lavatory fails: both astronauts ill

From Piers Akerman, Houston, March 24

Colonel Jack Lousma and Colonel Charles Fullerton were given an extra hour's sleep today to compensate for a strenuous day's activities yesterday but they awoke to more problems on board the space shuttle Columbia.

The most pressing and distressing problem was the failure of the shuttle's lavatory which Colonel Lousma, the mission commander, discovered soon after awakening.

In the gravity-free atmosphere of space the astronauts relieve themselves into a commode fitted with a fan which sucks the waste away from their bodies into a separator that collects solids and fluids.

The separator, known as a slinger, is driven by an electric motor which has apparently overloaded. The unit now has a slower speed but it is not capable of coping with faeces without clogging the system. If the unit cannot be repaired, the astronauts will have to defecate into a bag placed into a commode and dispose of them in the shuttle's waste stowing system.

The breakdown may be related to the motion sickness the two astronauts have reported. Colonel Lousma is the most seriously affected but both men are being treated. Mr Tom Holloway, the flight director at the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, today refused to discuss the nature of the medication.

Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) decided to substitute tomorrow's activities for those scheduled for today in order to give the astronauts a lighter work load.

Tomorrow's programme is

less taxing. The main event is the insect motion experiment to be carried out for an American schoolboy, who hopes to study the ability of these moths and flies to adjust to gravity-free conditions.

The original programme planned for today includes extensive operations of the Columbia's remote-controlled manipulator arm, which was to have been used to deploy a plasma-measuring package in the atmosphere above the shuttle's cargo bay.

Mr Holloway said there was also a possibility of a leakage in the space shuttle's nitrogen supply during last night.

Instruments on board the space craft measured a leakage of about 20 lb but Mr Holloway said the measurement may have been caused by unusual thermal conditions or inaccurate instruments.

The astronauts slept much better last night but they again reported receiving interference on their radio circuit as they flew over Iran and China. Mr Holloway said the interference appeared to be coming into the shuttle's circuit on the UHF frequency commonly used by aircraft.

It was speculated earlier that the interference may have come from Soviet single-side band over the horizon radar but Nasa officials now say it was definitely UHF signal.

The officials are confident the Columbia will complete a full seven-day flight during its third mission in space. "We all would like to have the spacecraft about perfect, but considering this is the third time Columbia has flown, we are doing as well as we can expect," Mr Holloway said.



Guard duty: A Guatemalan armoured car attracts a big crowd outside the presidential palace.

Guatemalan junta dissolves Congress

Guatemala City, March 24.

Guatemala's new military rulers, who took power in an apparently bloodless coup yesterday, have abolished Congress and suspended the constitution. A junta, led by Brigadier-General Efraim Rios Montt, promised to guarantee peace and security in a country where more than 4,000 are believed to have died in political violence in the past two years.

General Rios Montt also called on the guerrillas to lay down their arms, and warned if you don't, we will take them away from you. We will shoot anyone who breaks the law. An Army spokesman said that any intended violence on their part would be "immediately and drastically repressed".

The officers staged the

coup because, they said, the presidential elections, less than three weeks ago were "manipulated by a corrupt minority".

General Romeo Lucas Garcia, the deposed President, had been ordered out of the country, General Rios Montt said. There was no official news about General Anibal Guevara, the President-elect, who won the March 7 elections, and was due to assume power in July. A report from the American Embassy said that Mr Frederic Chapin, the Ambassador, had talked to General Guevara, who was safe.

General Rios, Montt, who stood unsuccessfully for the Christian Democrats in the 1974 presidential election, made his first address on

radio and television last night, as about 2,000 heavily armed troops surrounding the National Palace began to withdraw. —Reuter.

Washington: Government officials have adopted a wait-and-see attitude to the new Guatemalan junta (Nicholas Ashford writes). They particularly want to know whether the military junta will be expanded to include civilians, what the "reforms" promised by General Rios Montt will entail, and whether social democratic and left-wing parties will be allowed to participate in the event of new elections being held.

Commenting on the coup, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said that it was still too early to make any substantive comment,

and he was still waiting for the situation to be clarified.

However, administration officials have expressed cautious optimism based on remarks made by General Rios Montt, that the political leanings of the coup leaders may not be as far to the right as originally feared.

General Rios Montt promised to restore authentic democracy. He said elections would be held for a new Government; but gave no date, and promised to unveil a programme of reforms soon.

The United States wants to resume aid to Guatemala because, in Mr Haig's view, it is "the next target" after El Salvador for Cuban and Nicaraguan-backed insurgents operating in Central America.

Reading the entrails of the coup

By Peter Strafford

In times gone by, a military coup in Guatemala would have been dismissed as one more manifestation of the chronic instability of a small Central American country, and would have received little attention from the outside world.

Tuesday's coup was different, however, because it took place at a time of turmoil throughout the region, and because Guatemala, the most populous of the Central American states, is seen by the Reagan Administration as playing a key role in its attempt to stem the tide of communism.

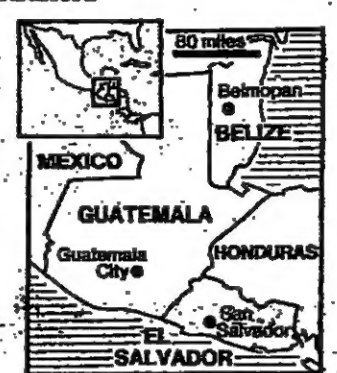
Britain is concerned, too, because of the continuing Guatemalan claim to Belize. Belize became independent last year, but some 1,400 British troops had to remain there, to deter a Guatemalan invasion. The British Government would like to be able to withdraw them.

It is not clear yet whether

Tuesday's coup represents a clear change of policy in Guatemala City. Guatemala has been ruled by the military for many years, and the main effect of the coup has been to replace an older generation of army officers by the "young officers" who claimed credit for it.

For Washington, that could be either good or bad news. It would be bad if the driving force behind the coup came from the extreme right, and if it led to even more violent repression against the left-wing guerrillas in the countryside.

The fact that the leaders of the coup were obviously trying to appeal to members of the National Liberation Movement (MLN) suggests that this may be the case. The MLN is on the far right of Guatemalan politics, and any indication that it was in control would make it difficult for the Reagan



Administration to muster support for helping the new regime.

A coup from the right would also be a bad prospect for neighbouring El Salvador, where elections for a constituent assembly are due to be held on Sunday. There are frequent rumours of a right-wing coup in El Salvador, which would be a further setback for Washington.

There is, however, another interpretation of the Guatemalan coup. It is that the officers who staged it were concerned about the growing strength of the guerrillas, and took the view that it was important to repair relations with Washington, so that they could get the assistance they needed.

Relations with Washington have been cool since the days of the Carter Administration, when arms sales were cut off because of abuses of human rights in Guatemala. The Reagan Administration would like to improve relations, but the obvious fraud in the March 7 elections made this difficult.

This interpretation suggests that there is a good deal of scope for the Americans if they choose to make their influence felt by the new regime. They can insist on improvements in Government policy, and particularly an end to the repression, in exchange for the aid



Under new management: General Efraim Rios Montt (centre), the president of the junta which seized power in Guatemala on Tuesday, announcing the dissolution of Congress. He is flanked by General Horacio Maldonado (left) and Colonel Francisco Gordillo.

Cricket tour is likely, Gandhi says

By Our Foreign Staff

The Indian cricket tour of England is likely to go ahead this summer, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, hinted yesterday.

Asked whether the Indian test side would be allowed to visit Britain after the imposition of a three-year ban on the "rebel" English players now in South Africa, she replied: "I don't think there will be any problem."

Shortly before, at a press conference, she had been more evasive, saying that the decision "is not entirely in my hands" and that the issue was "ticklish".

"Friendly African countries feel strongly about this subject," she added. Cricket, she explained with a smile, was not a subject about which she knew much, having never played it herself.

Mr Gandhi, who is half-way through her British tour, accused the Western press of "double standards" in reporting on issues such as Afghanistan compared with its treatment of events in Latin America and some African countries where she said, outside interference was taking place.

India did not regard the Soviet presence in Afghanistan as an invasion, as the Russians had been invited by the Afghan Government. However, she was firmly opposed to foreign interference or subversion.

Later Mrs Gandhi spent more than an hour talking with 30 British intellectuals over cups of tea and coffee at Claridges. They met her in small groups and talked about a wide range of subjects. But an Indian High Commission spokesman would not disclose details saying that "it was an off-the-record occasion."

Sir Ranulph has to go forward backwards

By Nicholas Timmins

Sir Ranulph Fiennes's Transglobe expedition to the North Pole has run into fresh trouble. It is having to go backwards to go forwards.

The expedition's London headquarters said that the mildest Arctic winter on record has left the two-man team of Sir Ranulph and Charles Burton almost marooned on an ice pan three-quarters of a mile in diameter, with open water 400 yards wide surrounding it on three sides.

To escape, the expedition is having to head 10 miles south in precisely the wrong direction, in order then to head west and eventually north-west, back towards the Pole.

Even then, its problems are far from over. The pilot of the aircraft that on Tuesday dropped supplies to the two men reported that while there looks to be solid, old ice from around 87° North, some 200 miles from the North Pole, the expedition will still have to cover some 120 miles through areas with masses of small cracks and leads in the ice before reaching it.

The expedition, currently some 325 miles from the

North Pole, needs to make 15 miles a day to reach the target by April 15, the date after which the ice normally starts to break up so badly that it would be impossible.

In the past week it has averaged only nine miles a day. The expedition headquarters said yesterday that the pilot, who worked out the backward and sideways route now needed, estimated that the detour would take three to four days.

"They are going to be very pushed to make it now by April 15," a spokesman for the expedition said.

The difficulties have arisen even though the temperature has dropped back to -36°C. At that temperature the ice should freeze over, but the expedition's headquarters said that it is now moving about so much that it fails to freeze solid.

The extent of the problem can be seen in a radio message from Sir Ranulph's wife Virginia from the base camp Alert. She said: "When I look north from here I should see an expanse of unbroken ice. All I can see to the horizon from Alert is open water."

A right-wing leader, who has made much of the running in El Salvador's election campaign has added further to the tension here by claiming that the results of next Sunday's election have been rigged in advance.

The accusation was levelled by Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, a former intelligence officer who heads the National Republican Alliance (Arena), at the closing meeting of his party's campaign.

The meeting was held on the eve of the second anniversary of the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero during a mass at a convent in the capital. He was an outspoken opponent of human rights violations in El Salvador.

A Mass to honour the memory of Mr Romero today at the cathedral was cancelled because his successor, acting Archbishop Arturo Riera Damas, said he feared a large concentration of people could provoke political violence.

Major D'Aubuisson's last meeting was held in the National Gymnasium, an auditorium which took on all

El Salvador election

Vote is rigged, candidate says

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, March 24

the aspects of the Berlin Sportsplatz beloved by the Nazis in the 1930s. A flag-waving crowd chanted: *Patria si, comunismo no* "as bands played songs in praise of Major D'Aubuisson, the *maximo lider* (the 'great leader')." Wild cheers filled the building as the Major, dressed in a black windcheater and wearing the cross of a medieval crusading knight's order arrived on the podium.

His speech was the by now a familiar tirade against the Christian Democratic Party whose leader, Señor José Napoleón Dante, heads the junta of civilian and military figures which rules El Salvador.

Major D'Aubuisson alleged that the Christian Democrats were in reality stalking horses for the left-wing guerrillas of the Farabundo Martí national liberation movement, who have vowed to disrupt Sunday's election.

How much of the mud he has thrown at President Duarte has stuck will be known only when the results of the election are released. However, Major D'Aubuisson and his party have

decided to guard against the possibility of their defeat by claiming that there could be a "fraud" on Sunday to ensure that the Christian Democrats continue at the head of the Government.

It is widely recognized that a victory by anyone else but the Christian Democrats would be a setback for United States policy in El Salvador as President Duarte is the only figure the Reagan Administration can sell to Congress, and even that with great difficulty.

Major D'Aubuisson is said to enjoy the support of a number of junior officers in the security forces. The high command, particularly General José García, the powerful Defence Minister, is understood to be hoping for a Christian Democratic victory as this would ensure the continuing flow of United States military aid.

An added embarrassment facing the United States in the event of a victory by Major D'Aubuisson is that he was deported from the United States last year after illegally entering.

Tension on West Bank

Three more Arabs killed by Israelis

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 24

Two more young Palestinians were shot dead by Israelis in the occupied West Bank today, bringing to four the number of Arabs killed since the dismissal of the El-Bireh town Council last week. Another Arab youth was killed by Israeli gunfire in the Gaza Strip.

In today's incident with the most serious implications, a 17-year-old Palestinian named as Farhan Khadir was shot by Jewish civilians, presumed to have come from the largest West Bank settlement, Kiryat Arba. The settlement of concrete, high-rise buildings looks down on Hebron, a city holy to both Jews and Arabs.

An Israeli military source said that the settlers opened fire after their vehicle had been attacked by stone-throwing demonstrators from East Nablus, the Arab village closest to the settlement. The source said that three of the Jews had been injured in the stone-throwing, which began after Arabs had blocked the road with barricades of bricks and rubble.

The official Israeli military account of the incident said that the Jewish civilians had opened fire in self defence, hitting the youth in the chest.

The killing came only 24 hours after another West Bank settler, Mr Natan Natanson, was wounded by the Jerusalem magistrates' court in connexion with the fatal shooting last week of another Arab teenager who was alleged to have taken part in a similar stone-throwing protest near the settlement of Shiloh. Police allege that Mr Natanson, aged 37, had committed premeditated murder.

The shootings have raised a serious question mark over the powers of the settlers, most of whom carry sub-machine guns and rifles when outside their fortified settlements.

In today's other fatal shooting, a 22-year-old Arab was killed in the occupied town of Jenin. According to Israeli officers, he was shot dead after he stabbed a member of a patrol who saw

him inciting local shop keepers to close their stores in solidarity with the general strike. In a village near Rafah in the Gaza Strip a third Palestinian was shot dead by soldiers dispersing a stone-throwing crowd.

The killings took place during the sixth consecutive day of widespread unrest and violence throughout the occupied territories. Shortly before news of these was made public, radical Palestinian leaders called for the general strike to be extended.

Tel Aviv: Israeli forces thrust across their northern frontiers this morning and thwarted the first attempted overland terrorist infiltration since December, 1980, according to the military command here (Moshe Brilliant writes).

Three armed Arabs were encircled in mountainous brush and gave up without a fight, it was stated. Military sources said the attempted incursion was a violation of the suspension of hostilities agreement of July 24 mediated by Mr Philip Habib, President Reagan's special envoy.

An Israeli patrol south of the electronically monitored frontier fence, detected the figures advancing toward the border this morning north of Hanita, a kibbutz on the Mediterranean flank of the frontier. They passed through a gate in the fence to territory controlled by Israeli-Lebanese allies, the militia commanded by Major Sa'ad Haddad, and set out after the men.

They traced them to their hide-out near the settlement and called to them to surrender. The Arabs emerged carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Cairo: A leading adviser to President Mubarak today urged Israel to show self-restraint in West Bank to give a chance to a negotiated settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr Osama el-Baz, director of Mr Mubarak's political bureau, said Egypt was closely watching the developments and hoped they would not grow worse.

Letters, page 13

Phone tap scandal in Greece

From Mario Modiano, Athens, March 24

The public prosecutor of Athens has ordered an investigation into the tapping of a classified telephone in the home of Vice-Admiral Odysseas Kaperos who just resigned as naval chief of staff after a dispute with the Government over senior Navy appointments.

The case took on strong political overtones as the security forces traced the tapping to the vacant flat of a conservative former deputy who once lived across the street from the Admiral.

The pro-government press has described the affair as a "Greek Watergate", but Mr Evangelos Averoff, the leader of the conservative opposition, rejected the insinuations as a ploy to mislead the official inquiry. "This is an issue of national character," he said.

The top security telephone was installed in the Admiral's flat shortly after the Socialist Government appointed him chief of the Greek naval staff in January.

The tapping was discovered five weeks ago, but nothing was said. Security experts found a twin line leading to the rented flat of Mr George Papadopoulos, a New Democracy former MP who, after his defeat in last October's election, no longer resides in Athens.

Although a discreet inquiry was set up, news of the affair was leaked in the conservative press yesterday, just as Admiral Kaperos's resignation was accepted by the Government.

The Admiral had clashed violently with the Government after it refused to reassign him to a senior naval officers' post approved by the Supreme Naval Council under his chairmanship.

Sources said the Government particularly insisted on naming a naval officer to the sensitive post of director of naval personnel. The council had rejected it probably because the officer's father-in-law had been an extreme left wing politician.

The Government asked Admiral Anastasios Roberts, who was next in seniority, to take over as chief, but he insisted that the council's appointments should be respected.

The Government then took the unprecedented step to purge three admirals and make way for Rear-Admiral Nikos Pappas who was promoted to vice-admiral and appointed chief of the Navy general staff yesterday.

Admiral Pappas who was captain of the destroyer *Georgios Averoff* at the time of the abortive Navy revolt against the Greek junta in June 1973, took his ship out of a Nato manoeuvre and into Naples where he and his men obtained political asylum.

10,000 decry award to Reagan

From Christopher Thomas, New York, March 24

To everybody's astonishment, at least 10,000 people took to the streets of central New York to protest against a humanitarian award being presented to President Reagan at the Hilton hotel.

The participants, mostly young and peaceful, carried banners objecting to almost every aspect of Mr Reagan's economic and international policies. In particular, they were appalled that he should be regarded as humanitarian.

At the ceremony Mr Reagan insisted that the facts proved he cared about the needy. "Today I am accused by some of trying to destroy government's commitment to compassion and to the needy. Does this bother me? Yes," he said he was attempting to slow down the destructive rate of growth in taxes and spending and to prime non-essential programmes so that enough was left for the truly needy.

By the time he delivered the speech, the crowd had largely dispersed, but the organizers, the Coalition to Roll Back Reaganism, were jubilant. They had expected no more than a few thousand protesters, but now they had high expectations for a demonstration on Saturday.

The New York demonstration was impressive enough for Mr Reagan to depart from his prepared text. "Yes, there will at times be disagreement over the path we should take," he said. "But I cannot such a dialogue be carried out with decency and understanding without a time of hatred?"

He was presented with the Charles Evans Hughes gold medal for courageous leadership in government, civic and humanitarian affairs, by the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which was formed in 1929 to combat bigotry, particularly anti-Roman Catholic feelings.

His presence at the \$250-a-head dinner was the latest in a series of appearances around the country, apparently designed to counter the image that he lacks "compassion" and "heart."

The choice of Mr Reagan as the recipient of the award caused dissension within the conference and many senior officials dissociated themselves from it. An "alternative award dinner" consisting of cheese and ketchup was organized by some of them at a university campus nearby.

President Reagan used his speech to fulfil a commitment made in November to leaders of American Jewish organizations "to speak out against anti-Semitism and racism" and have no part in the national dialogue.

Jerusalem, March 24

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Romantic crying Wolfe

From Bauhaus to Our House
By Tom Wolfe

(Cape, £6.95)

Architecture is the most inescapable of the higher arts, just as cookery is at a humbler level. One cannot live and work in the open all the time nowadays, just as one cannot subsist on nuts and berries. Tom Wolfe, continuing in this book the assault on modernism begun in *The Painted Word*, is touching a universally sensitive nerve. Ghastly painting can be avoided without too much difficulty; ghastly buildings one may find oneself living in.

building on a large scale, the new architecture began to leave its mark, most eminently perhaps at the lower end of Park Avenue, with buildings by Gordon Buxbaum and culminating in the Seagram building of Mies.

In America the intended victims of most of the new architecture were not the workers of Mitteleuropa, but the middle-class class. As it turned out they had other ideas.

They ended up in places like Islip, Long Island, and the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, and they bought houses with pitched roofs and shingles and clapboard siding, with no structural expression of there was any way around it, with gas-light style front-porch lamps and mailboxes set up on lumps of stiffened chain that were to defy gravity the more care and anxiety touched the better - and they loaded these houses with "drapes" such as baffled all description and wall-to-wall carpet you could lose a shoe in, and they put barbecue pits and fishponds with concrete cherubs urinating into them on the lawn out back, and they parked the Buick Electra out front and had Evinrude cruisers out on tow trailers in the carport just beyond the breezeway.

was doing more than mocking a fashionable fatuity; this stance was closer to Juvenal than E. F. Benson. Now he has come out, for all his white suits and up-to-date-ness, his generally cool self-presentation, as a nativist, a protector of culture made by Americans - against - serenity to imports, hard-sold through the high-pressure salesman's patter of theoretical rubbish. In the book's very first sentence, which begins "O beautiful, for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain..." a Whitmanesque note is sounded which recurs plangently from time to time. What could be closer to "Song of Myself" than "Our visionary avant-gardists! Rockefeller, Goodyear, Sullivan and Bliss! O oilmen, lumber men, dry-goods jobbers and wiremen!" Back to before 1914 is the underlying principle. It has not proved possible to keep them down on the farm, now that they've seen Paree. The old native ways are dramatized in an angry confrontation between Frank Lloyd Wright, last of the great pre-modernists, and Gropius.

Tom Wolfe's method calls for drama and personalization. This book, like its predecessor on painting, is hostile to theory and his ways with theory are perfunctory to the point of frivolousness. But his heart is an admirable place on the whole. One would, however, need to be very deeply committed to the democratic myth to share the shock he feels at an architect's remark: "We are asked to take seriously the architectural taste of real-estate speculators, renting agents and mortgage brokers." Also he does tend to run together things that are not necessarily connected. The dreadful hives of much public housing are one thing; "functionalism" another. Only the fact that public housing has to be cheap and that modern buildings can be built more cheaply is essentially dehumanizing; its "striated heaps" are in principle indifferent to the surroundings. But it is only accidentally tyrannous. And surely much of it is rather fine. The human can be all too human.

Anthony Quinton



The Reunion of the Soul and the Body by William Blake from Robert Blair's *The Grave*, edited and introduced by Robert N. Essick and Morton D. Paley (Scolar, £45), the first full publication of this important series of engravings and drawings...

Nor shall the conscious soul
Mistake its partner; but amidst the crowd
Singing its other half, into its arms
Shall rush, with all the impatience of a man
That's new come home, and, having long been absent,
With haste runs over every different room,
In pain to see the whole. Thrice happy meeting!
Nor time, nor death, shall ever part them more!

P. J. Kavanagh has always been a poet who seems equally at home (yet intelligently uneasy) whether in city streets or muddy ploughlands. His *Selected Poems* (Chatto & Windus £4.95) is a very fine book indeed, and leaves me in no doubt that the time has come for a reassessment of the reputation of this unambitious but most accomplished writer. Kavanagh (who the son of Ted Kavanagh who wrote the scripts for "Imma") has, sometimes spoiled, or fudged poems of undoubted inspiration by turning aside into gags at his own expense, but his critical mind has performed a first-rate job in choosing for this volume the best things from the five books he published between 1959 and 1979. He writes well about happiness (which is rare); his love poems are never sentimental; most remarkable of all, he has the knack of turning the simplest nature note into something which goes beyond observation of the outer weather - and to do this without being portentous. Here is a complete poem, "Sun Overcast" which illustrates that last gift.

When brightness leaves the trees
They seem to fall
Backwards, deprived of shadows,
then rise again in a cool
Diminution of waiting, solid
Is what they mean when death
makes audible
Beyond our ears and, I feel, as
simple.

I remember the late James Keenleyside, a young man Blunden for having a Muse with an "unpresuming Saxon grace". Kavanagh's has the same grace. She may never be fashionable, but I'd wager she has a persistence which will survive this fashion and that.

Robert Nye

In Harry Keating's crime briefs last week the notice of Flashpoint by Maxine Duke was attached by accident to Dealer's Wheels by Steve Wilson.

Fiction

Mid-Century Men
By Arthur Hopcraft
(Hamish Hamilton, £7.95)
Tony Craddock, concerned journalist turned TV scriptwriter, is rising fifty and preoccupied with the "mysterious awfulness" of his hangovers. Thus doubly enabled, he agrees to meet Peter Franklin, a young, fashionably emaciated, investigative reporter, who claims to be preparing a series about politics on TV. But it soon becomes clear that Franklin's real objective is the destruction of Craddock's old chum Roy Llewellyn, former Labour MP, now a Home Office Minister in the Lords. Their childhood friendship continued through National Service and Roy's early political career, but they've been estranged in recent years, which convinces Franklin that Tony is the man to investigate some of the ugly rumours about the Minister. Fascinated by the young Trot's hair-shirt radicalism,

Dear Old Bill

The Politics of Change
By William Rodgers

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £7.95)

Bill Rodgers would be my candidate as leader of the SDP. He may not be as nice as Shirley Williams, as experienced as Roy Jenkins, as handsome as David Owen; but he comes with less baggage than any of them. Shirley Williams brings her own conscience, Jenkins his clarity, Owen his charisma. All three, their wretched and public agonizing. But not our Bill. He is authentic, long-standing social democrat, in the Labour Party for years simply because, then, he had nowhere else to go. Ever since the 1962 Party conference when he ostentatiously stood through the standing ovation after Hugh Gaitskill's triumphant anti-Common Market speech, Rodgers has been an isolated figure (even Jenkins stood up). "Charlie, all the wrong people are cheering," Dora Gaitskill was heard to remark (to Charlie Pannell) as the applause died down. It was not just the left who were cheering; but many on the right, too. Anti-market people are cheering. Jay, and those like Denis Healey and Jim Callaghan for whom the EEC had never been a great issue of principle.

For Rodgers, the Common Market was, and is, a subject of his considerable passion and idealism. No single issue lies more behind the SDP split than this one. Rodgers hints at this when he writes that the "internal developments in the Labour Party in the eighteen months following its defeat in May, 1979, determined the manner and timing of the break, but they were not its root cause". Curiously, however, there is no chapter in this book about the Common Market, nor Rodgers' international vision. Nor is there a chapter on his other passion, defence, and the case for nuclear weapons. All one is left with here is a strange contrast between Rodgers' view of relations between states, and those between classes. On international conflict, Rodgers is a thorough-going hawk, on domestic conflict, a wishy-washy pacifist. "I see no prospect of converting the nations to a world in which war is not an ultimate instrument of policy," he writes, on one hand. On the other, exactly the liberalism which he finds and condemns in the Left's approach to defence he displays in his view of the domestic conflict, where his appeal is to "goodhearted and liberal-minded people". The fault in today's society lies, according to Rodgers, in different sections not understanding the other's point of view. It's the Ovaltine and digestive biscuits approach to politics which, in the end, will be the downfall of the SDP.

Jack Straw

The Rebel Angels

By Robertson Davies

(Allen Lane, £6.50)

The rebel angels in title were Samabath and Azzel, who betrayed the secrets of Heaven to King Solomon, and were therefore chucked out of heaven by God. But they were not megalomaniac bad losers like Lucifer. Instead they gave mankind another boost up the ladder; they came to earth and taught the secrets of magic, alchemy, and law, and hygiene, and often particular successes with the daughters of men.

In this joyful novel they are a pair of middle-aged male unmarried dons at a Canadian University of St John and the Holy Ghost (Spook for short). The book is an agreeable surprise for radicals who suppose that out of Canada nothing new or witty can come, and for defectors who sigh world-weary that campus fictions are passé. Both rebel academics are in love with the delectable medievalist post-graduate Maria. An unpublished manuscript by Rabelais is discovered in a mountainous bequest by a scholarly magpie, and promptly stolen by another scholarly magpie. The scandalous Brother Parlabene comes home to roost and indulge in bizarre sexual practices.

The author is a bearded magus himself, Oxford-educated, journalist, now Master of Massey College in Toronto, and a wit. There is murder, theft, suicide, and a lot of assorted plot, alongside much urbane chat, scholarship, Rabelaisian goings-on, and satire. In short, it is an intelligent farce, and highly recommended.

Anne Barnes Philip Howard

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On the 25th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, Julian Amery recalls a momentous lunch-time meeting

How Churchill's dream of Europe foundered

On September 30, 1946 I was bidden to lunch by Churchill. The other guests were Duncan Sandys, who had just prepared Churchill's Zurich speech, my father, Leo Amery, the guardian of the Conservative Party's conscience on the Commonwealth, and Boothby. Our purpose was to launch the European Movement.

Churchill saw Europe as a grand alliance against Soviet imperialism and as the means of bringing Germany back into the family of nations.

But could British leadership of the Commonwealth be combined with membership of Europe? Here all agreed with my father that Britain could not join a European Federation with supra-national powers. But we could, certainly, belong to a European league of sovereign states. The Commonwealth itself was just such a league. The two could interlock.

France, Holland and Belgium, still colonial powers, would face similar problems. These could be harmonized. Sterling might even become Europe's reserve currency.

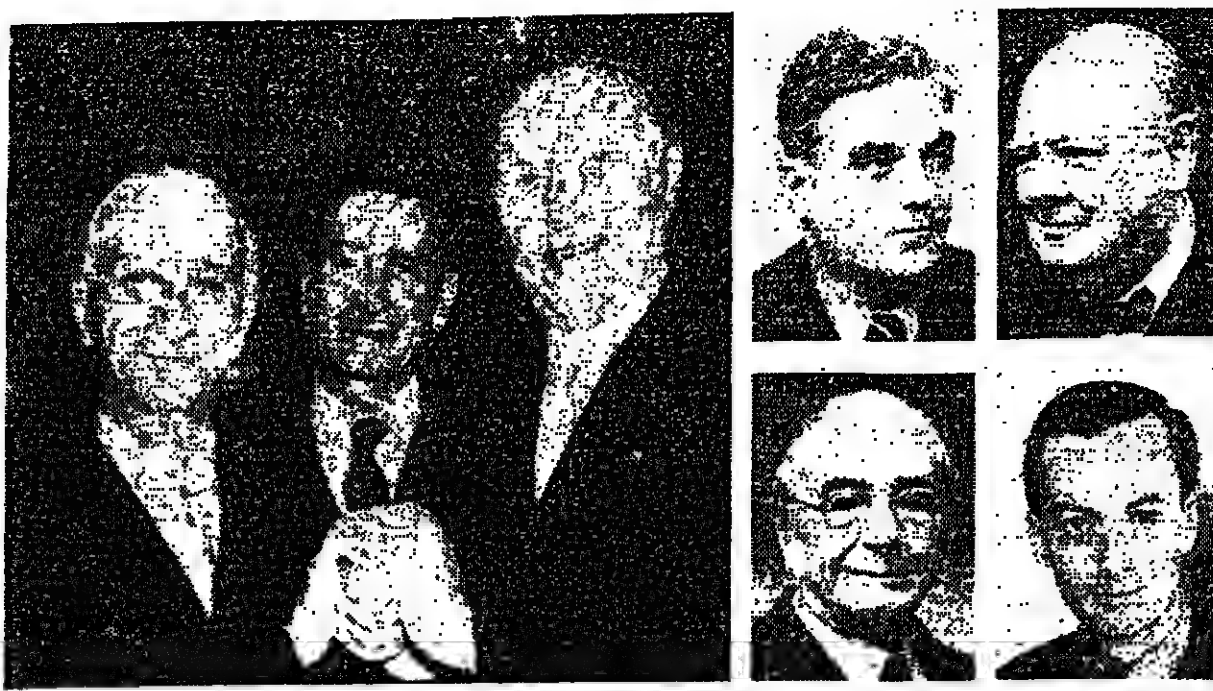
The European Movement was duly launched with Sandys as its architect. Political leaders on the Continent, newly released from prison or returned from exile, gathered eagerly around Churchill. A rally at the Albert Hall followed by a succession of meetings in the capitals of Europe, led up to the Hague conference (1948). This called for a Council of Europe composed of a Committee of Ministers and a Consultative Assembly.

The French, Italian and Benelux governments backed the Hague proposal. The Atlantic government reluctantly agreed.

Robert Schuman, inspired by Jean Monnet, now came forward with his plan for a Coal and Steel Pool. Bevin rejected it, arguing that it involved a surrender of sovereignty. Churchill supported the confident that he could secure any necessary amendments when again in power.

But Churchill's main concern was to rearm Germany for the defence of Europe. He called for a European army. His idea was immediately rejected by the Labour Government which was taken up by the French Government, who proposed the European Defence Community.

The year 1951 saw Churchill back in power. His personal



Antonio Segni and Konrad Adenauer sign the Treaty of Rome 25 years ago; and right, Robert Boothby, Churchill, Leo Amery and his son Julian who met in 1946 to launch the European Movement

prestige was unequalled. Britain, with a united Commonwealth and Empire, still seemed a great power. Our industry was intact, our armed forces the strongest in the west after the American. Sterling was an international reserve currency second only to the dollar. It was in Churchill's power to create a United Europe and give it such institutions as he chose.

True, the Demo-Christian leaders of France, Italy and Germany would have preferred a Catholic "Charlemagne Europe" without Britain. But Churchill's prestige and Britain's influence were such that they could not have stood against him.

The crunch came over the European Defence Community. At Strasbourg, Maxwell-Fyfe, in a speech previously cleared with the Cabinet, declared that Britain would play a full and honourable part in a European army. A standing ovation followed. We then dispersed for lunch.

When we met again in the late afternoon my Continental colleagues deliberately turned their backs on me. At a press conference in Rome the same afternoon, Anthony Eden had repudiated

Maxwell-Fyfe and declared that Britain would not join the European Army. The whole European Movement felt betrayed.

What had happened? Two of Churchill's most powerful colleagues, Eden and Butler, had never supported his European crusade. Nor had the Foreign Office and the Treasury. The pro-European Ministers in the Cabinet, Maxwell-Fyfe, Macmillan and Sandys, had no departmental base from which to challenge the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Churchill was ageing and his health precarious. Eden had his way.

Thus the first and best opportunity of fashioning Europe to Britain's hearts desire was lost. There was to be a second opportunity. In 1955 the French Parliament threw out the European Defence Community proposal mainly because Britain was not in it. Eden then proposed the Western European Union. This committed Britain to keep an Army on the Continent, indefinitely. Churchill's vision was coming true after all.

Next year Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal revived the *Entente*

Cordiale in practice and in sentiment. Shortly before the Suez operation, Guy Mollet told me that once Britain and France had successfully confronted the United States over the Middle East we could confidently build a United Europe around a Paris-London axis.

Mollet left the leadership at Suez to Britain. But then came the ceasefire dictated by Eisenhower and accepted unilaterally by Eden. The French felt betrayed. But Suez was a defeat for the whole of Europe, marking Europe's subordination to the Super Powers. This was the second opportunity to build a United Europe under British leadership.

Those who had all along wanted to see a Federal Europe of the Six, without Britain, now went ahead with the negotiations which culminated 25 years ago today in the Treaty of Rome.

The Foreign Office judged the project stillborn, but nearly five years later and after much hesitation Macmillan saw no option but to apply to join the European Community.

Macmillan and de Gaulle's conception of Europe was much the same. Both saw it not as a

federation but as a league of Sovereign states. The other European states would have welcomed us, but de Gaulle judged Britain still too strong to be admitted to the Club. We, and not France, would have become the leaders. Hence his veto.

In conversation not long afterwards, de Gaulle predicted a decade of decline for Britain. He foresaw a Socialist victory to be followed by a Conservative government "perhaps under Heath". By that time, he reckoned Britain would have been weakened enough to be an acceptable partner. It was indeed Heath who secured our admission to the Community. But by that time we were no longer in a position to dictate our terms.

Two great opportunities had been lost. The third - Macmillan's attempt - had proved to be the pursuit of a mirage. Now we have been full members for a decade. Overall the bargain has been good. More than 40 per cent of our exports go to the Community and nearly 60 per cent if we include associate members - much more than we ever sold to the Commonwealth and Empire. We are certainly in no position to dominate the EEC. But nor for that matter are France and Germany. Yet Britain could still make a great contribution to it. We possess the independent nuclear deterrent and highly trained professional forces, we have our own oil resources and we enjoy relative social stability.

Then what is the way ahead? The Community is already a Customs Union and will become a full payments area as soon as we decide to join the European monetary system. But if countries pool their trade and financial interests they need to develop foreign and defence policies to promote and protect them.

So the time has come to return to Churchill's original concept of how best to unite Europe against the threat of Soviet imperialism. How best, in short, to make the European Community a valid partner for the United States in what must increasingly become not just a North Atlantic but a global alliance.

Julian Amery was a delegate to the Consultative Assembly on the Council of Europe, 1950-53 and 1956; and Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, 1972-74. He is Conservative MP for Brighton Pavilion

Ronald Butt

Where the SDP must aim

If Mr Roy Jenkins takes Hillhead today, he will have achieved little of fundamental importance for the long-term future of the SDP, apart from the benefit of his presence in parliament. The SDP exists, so it claims, "to break the political mould". Yet if Mr Jenkins is victor, it is quite likely that he will have taken a further step towards breaking it in a sense very different from the purpose of the SDP's founders.

The founders of the SDP were Labour not Conservative politicians who had fought for years to stay in the Labour Party and make it a socialist party acceptable to them. They were resisting, not all public ownership, and control but the extent to which the left wished to take it, and above all, the left's fighting against the left's neutralism in foreign policy which is prompted largely by Marxist instincts.

Yet it was not any specific argument over policy that finally drove them out of the Labour Party but the success of the left in its attempt to make the leader, the parliamentary party and the manifesto subservient to the party conference, together with growing Trotskyist influence.

Since they had come to the conclusion that Labour was now a party unfit for power in a democracy, they seceded in order to replace it as the principal party of the left. The SDP was to be heir to the Anti-Socialist tradition. That was the basic position of Dr Owen, Mr Rodgers and Mrs Williams at the start.

But the problem for any new party is how to get off the ground and for the SDP to do so initially needed Tory as well as Labour votes. Although the SDP secured no defectors from among Tory politicians (apart from the monumentally insignificant floor-crossing of Mr Brocklebank-Fowler) it quickly attracted disaffected Tory and non-aligned voters. It carried logic that the SDP should make common cause with the Liberals, which was achieved through the Roy Jenkins-David Steel axis.

So the SDP has been increasingly driven to present itself as something quite different from either of the old parties and taking equally from both. Its embracing of proportional representation emphasizes its centrist position.

Moreover, it has so far only been Tory seats that the Alliance has taken and although this is principally because no Labour seat has fallen vacant with a majority that could be overturned, an SDP victory at Hillhead could do no more than confirm the Social Democrats as a centrist party, more attractive to Tories than Labour voters.

Looking further ahead, the SDP's commitment to proportional representation, if implemented, would, if highly unlikely that we should get a single-party government again - which would be a disaster - the claim to replace Labour.

Even without PR, it is possible that if the SDP establishes itself as a party that temporarily attracts more Tory than Labour voters, it will assist the Liberals to capture a number of Tory seats where they have been running second, but without the Liberals being able to reciprocate by helping the SDP to capture Labour seats equally.

If the Alliance holds the balance after the next election in a centrist position, it would probably have to form a coalition with the Tories, without Mrs Thatcher. Labour would continue its drive to the left and if the coalition failed by its policies of economic management, incomes and price control, and inflationary spending, to prevent another economic crisis, Labour might return to power far more left-wing than ever. If (improbably) the coalition succeeded, however, the Alliance could well be absorbed in a new Tory Party.

The more likely outcome, however, would be a shifting series of centrist governments of varying composition achieved under PR but still unable, given our union structure and the capacity of the unions and a leftist Labour Party to make mischief, to govern Britain effectively.

The last chapter in Mr Williams' recent book, *The Politics of Change*, is called "Breaking the Political Mould." The social assumptions of the old parties are worn out, he says, and the misgovernment of Britain under the two-party system shows that this system no longer works. What he ought to have said is not that the system is bad but that the division of power between the two chief parties that now exist works badly.

He also argues that the idea of a stable two-party system is a myth - citing the three-party period, during which earlier in the century Labour was replacing the Liberals and the coalitions of the 1930s and 1940s. But this simply proves that the party structure can change, when there is need, without PR. The truth is that we have a system which allows parties to be replaced in this way but then rightly tends to revert to a two-party alternative - which is a way of securing structural change while maintaining a system under which questions can be put to the electorate that demand a clear answer.

The curious feature of Mr Rodgers' analysis is that it explicitly leads back to the SDP as a replacement of Labour while proposing an electoral system that makes this difficult, if not impossible. Whatever Mr Jenkins's position, Mr Rodgers leaves no doubt about what he wants. "The task of the Social Democrats now is to supplant the Labour Party as the natural party of the centre-left in Britain." He is quite right that this is what it should be.

One does not have to be an SDP supporter to understand that a two-party system divided between the Conservatives and the SDP (in Labour's place) is not the mixed society and economy, but one emphasizing personal and the other collective responsibility is what Britain needs to restore the consensus which has broken down principally because Labour and the Tories refused to accept it.

Mr Rodgers understands all this very well. He also understands that Conservatives do not ultimately stand in the same danger as Labour from the SDP and will remain "the acceptable vehicle for the centre-right of British politics." But alternative to what?

Though he sees the SDP as "firmly on the non-ideological centre-left" the question remains how, reaping Tory seats, exploiting tactical votes, allied with the Liberals and committed to a PR future which will constrain the SDP as much as any other party towards the Social Democrats are going to supplant Labour and thus recreate the consensus we need - even though, as Mr Rodgers observes, Labour is losing support generally more than the Tories are.

Whatever happens at Hillhead it will not help the SDP towards its necessary goal of supplanting Labour. Only when the Social Democrats take a solid Labour seat will they have the makings of a more solid basis than that which temporarily annoyed Tories can provide.

Why politicians should beware of crime statistics

The great myth of the detective

For the last two weeks the public and politicians have been bombarded with crime figures. Concern about law and order has led to intense pressure on Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, and will today produce what is likely to be a fierce House of Commons debate.

But as MPs, like Mrs Thatcher last week, grapple with the complexities of the officially recorded crime figures, they might reflect on one simple fact. The figures tell neither the truth about the extent of crime nor about police success in clearing it up. Any law and order campaign based on them is therefore bogus.

This is not to say that there is no cause for concern about the true amount of crime, nor about the viciousness of much of it. But it is to say that as indicators of the amount of it, the crime figures are worse than useless; they can be misleading. As was reported in *The Times* diary last week, research suggests that there may be up to 10 times as much crime as is actually reported. And up to two thirds of what is reported as crime by the public may not be finally recorded as such by the police. Under-reporting has been especially common in cases of alleged assault and thefts from the person.

The Home Office figures issued on March 12 and Scotland Yard statistics two days earlier were of recorded crime last year.

The criteria for what is recorded may vary from force to force. One study showed that in Oxford 6 per cent of reported offences and other complaints were written off as "no crimes" compared

with fewer than two per cent in Salford.

Twice in Manchester in recent years there have been apparent surges in particular sorts of crime; yet this had less to do with the extent of crime than the priority given by new Chief Constables to tackling it. One was Sir John McKay. Before his arrival in 1959, there was only one prosecution for male impersonating in 1955, none at all in 1956 or 1957 and only two in 1958. The figures thereafter were 30 in 1959, 105 in 1960, 135 in 1961 and 216 in 1962.

Mr James Anderson was appointed Chief Constable of Greater Manchester on July 1 1976. That year 55 search warrants were executed under the Obscene Publications Acts and there were proceedings in 25 cases. The comparable figures in 1977 were 287 warrants and 134 proceedings, and in 1978, 151 warrants and 91 proceedings.

Mr Anderson told the Manchester Statistical Society: "Every year the Home Secretary presents to Parliament statistics relating to crime and criminal proceedings in England and Wales for the previous year. But precisely what do the figures tell us about the state of criminality in the nation and what do they suggest should be done about it? Very little, is the answer I would give."

He described robbery figures as "described robbery figures" and said a count of serious crime figures could be "utterly

pointless." "Robbery" might refer either to a serious hold-up of a security guard carrying a large sum of money from a bank or to the taking with some force or violence of one schoolchild's dinner money in the playground by another pupil.

Another study of a police force showed that 37 per cent of house burglaries recorded in the Chief Constable's annual report were in fact attacks on prepayment meters, with no other property stolen or damaged. Whether the crime was recorded as simply "theft from meter" or house burglary depended apparently on police assessment of the "moral character" of the complainant.

One of the most emotive arguments, essential to the debate about the return of capital punishment, is about the number of firearms used. That argument was rebutted by Chief Superintendent Mike Hoare of the Metropolitan Police, in an MSC thesis

done for the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

Crimes of violence against the person with firearms showed a "frantic rise" from 768 in 1969 to 2,759 in 1978 in England and Wales, but 2,417 of them were committed with air weapons, most of them used by 14 to 17-year-olds. Air-weapons are dangerous, but not so dangerous as a "firearm".

Courts may also downgrade the initial assessment of the seriousness of the violence. A classic study of violence 20 years ago found about two out of every three of those found guilty of a crime of violence were convicted of a lesser crime than that with which they were originally charged.

And a study of robbery discovered that fewer than two thirds of defendants were convicted of the principal offence with which they were charged: between 15 and 20 per cent were acquitted, and a further 15 to 20 per cent were convicted of

lesser offence of violence or even a non-violent offence.

Since that time, the gap between figures of reported crimes and those cleared up has widened. Only yesterday Sir David McNea, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was reported as lamenting that a clear-up rate of 17 per cent by his force was "not acceptable".

It can take heart. Previous research has suggested the more crime is recorded, the lower the clear-up rate will be. Following the report of a Commission in the Irish Republic 10 years ago, it was decided to relate police pay to productivity. Next year there was a record increase in indictable crime. But there was an 11 per cent decrease in the detection rate.

(Source: Paddy Hilliard, Department of Social Administration, Bristol University.)

In *Understanding Crime Rates*, Keith Bottomley and Clive Coleman of Hull University, tell what happened when new legislation was passed in the early 1970s as a result of increased public concern about the incidence of vandalism. An attempt was made to "cushion" the effect of the new law, they say, by not requiring offences involving property valued at £200 to be recorded. That strategy has now been abandoned. The effect was a recorded increase from 42,000 offences in 1972 to more than 140,000 in 1978. They calculate that, if all damage is counted, including that under £20,

there would have been 306,000 offences recorded as known to the police.

It is a myth that detective work solves most crimes. David Steer, a tutor at the Police College, Bramshill, Hampshire, found in a study for the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure that three-quarters of suspects were caught carrying out the crime, were still at the scene when the police arrived, were known from the outset or were among a small number of people who had the opportunity to commit the crime.

Many property crimes are "solved" because prisoners ask for them to be "taken into consideration". In America, there were misgivings about the extent to which this was done as a trade-off.

The unanswered question is how much of the crime "increase" occurs simply because there are record numbers of police officers. Bottomley and Coleman state that evidence from places as far apart as Uganda and Nashville, Tennessee, shows that the sort of incidents considered worthwhile reporting to the police depend on how accessible the police are.

Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent
The Effectiveness of Policing ed. R V G Clarke and J M Hough (Gower 1980). Under-
standing Crime Rates by Keith Bottomley and Clive Coleman (Covind 1981). *Understanding Crime*. The Police Role. *Police Commission on Criminal Procedure, Research Study No 7* (Stationery Office). *Crimes of Violence*, F H McCintock et al (Macmillan 1963).

Was Southey to blame for our troubles?

"George Gilder, an American who believes the way to create wealth is to let creative men of faith have lots of money, goes further than our own Lord Annan in blaming Britain's stagnation and decline on our intellectuals."

Annan, as I disclosed recently, is considering writing a book connecting our economic malaise with the anti-industrial attitudes of people like Evelyn Waugh and George Orwell. Gilder, programme director of the International Center for Economic Policy Studies in Manhattan and author of a best-selling book called *Wealth and Poverty* which is published in its British edition today, traces the trouble back to the nineteenth century poet Laureate, Robert Southey.

Early in the Industrial Revolution, Gilder says, Southey wrote two volumes of passionate prose moving the manufacturing was a terrible mistake, and made the cardinal error of himself supposing that wealth for some must create poverty for others. Ever since, Gilder argues, poets and clergy have combined with "trade union Luddites, neo-Ruskinian literati, nostalgic Tories, Gothic revival socialists and manor house Maoists" in self-fulfilling fantasies of decorous decay.

It was Macaulay, one English intellectual Gilder approves, who fingered Southey, and what Gilder calls "a splendidly progressive essay."

On the other hand Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* and father of free trade, proved a sad disappointment. He was astonished to find that Smith was a violent enemy of individual capitalists, making continual sneers and disdainful references to those in trade.

Intellectuals of the Right, Gilder concludes, are little better than those of the Left. They might like productivity but do not much care for producers.

This intellectual tendency toward bankruptcy, you will be glad to hear, is not exclusively British trait. It has, in Gilder's view, crippled America too. Capitalism will not be safe anywhere, he says, until we are prepared to defend capitalists.

Army manoeuvre

The British army has failed in its attempt to overturn *The Good Museums Guide*, published today. The tactics, according to Kenneth Hudson who edits the book, were an interesting tribute to the thorough and many-sided training provided by the Staff College, but the military's execution of their manoeuvre was "bizarre and chuckle-provoking."

Britain, says Hudson, has far more military museums than any other country in the world, including the Soviet Union. When few were included in the previous edition of the *Guide*, the opening shot was a letter from the association representing 150 army museums.

This was followed by a barrage of completed report forms used by the *Guide*'s panel of inspectors, but all filled in by the curators of the army museums,

THE TIMES DIARY



The London Serpent Trio celebrate their sixth birthday and their patronal festival. All Fool's Day - a week today with a lunchtime concert in the crypt of St John's, Smith Square.

The serpent, an ancient instrument which looks like an elephant's intestine and if not played well can sound like it too, is so

curvy that when properly held it directs the sound straight into the player's right-hand trouser pocket.

Christopher Monk, Alan Lumsden and Andrew van der Beek are the three professional serpent players in the world. They play in tail coats and cravats, and their music has been variously described as "gruff as a snorting buffalo, as sinister as a wind among tombstones" and as "soft and gentle as the sigh of a baby... well, the baby's father".

each setting out the glories in his care. Careful examination revealed that dozens of photocopies had been made from a single original, and circulated to the army museums so that they could be fired off individually.

The smoke having cleared, it can now be seen that the broad-fronted assault lost, rather than gained, ground. In the new book the museum of the Royal Hampshire Regiment in Winchester is dropped in favour of that of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment in Leicester is eliminated and not replaced from military ranks.

Not at table

Britain could be severely under-represented at the banquet next week to mark the EEC's 25th anniversary. So far four former prime ministers, two lords and Roy Jenkins, candidate for Glasgow Hillhead, have all declined invitations to attend.

Among the regrets for the dinner, planned to coincide with the EEC summit in Brussels on Monday, are those of Edward Heath, Harold Macmillan, Lord Home and Sir Harold Wilson.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, former commissioner and chairman of the Labour Committee for Europe, is sorry, and Lord George-Brown cannot make it either.

At the last minute James Callaghan, Edmund Dell, former Labour Trade Secretary, and David Owen have been invited to make up numbers.

No time

Observant two- to four-year-olds watching *Play School* on BBC TV on Monday are likely to pester their parents to know why the clock has stopped. It is not going to be easy to explain, because it involves a three-way demarcation dispute between the broadcasting

Those who work on the programme cannot agree among themselves whose job it is to start and maintain the big electric cog with yellow wheels which is featured. The electrician claimed the job in 1980, and were opposed by the show's working operatives, who said the clock was a piece of scenery and therefore their responsibility.

Complaints kept the hands moving last week, but during a session, when the Association of Broadcasting Staffs joined in and the clock was stopped. Now infants anxious to tell the time must have to dial the speaking clock and unless the unions crime together to get *Play School*'s timepiece ticking again there could be an all-out strike.

Non-runners

The TUC General Council yesterday brought its full weight against a proposal for a trade union sponsored "fun run." In an untypical frank appraisal of their own limitations the council overwhelmingly defeated the scheme canvassed by jogging fitness fanatic, William Sires of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.

Sires failed even to find a second for his plea that a hostile committee report on his proposal - a run during the annual congress at Brighton in September - should be referred back. Presenting the report, round Clive Jenkins invited his colleagues to consider their average age and that of Congress delegates. The problems would be tremendous, he suggested, and qualified medical help essential.

Sires organized a successful fun

run during his own union's annual conference in Bourne-mouth last year. He ran out an easy winner.

Social rounds

In a publication called *The Public House, Leisure and Social Control* Dr Michael Smith of Salford University could be suspected of wanting to drive his readers to drink.

The public house, as an alcohol drinking context, mirrors the uniqueness of alcohol, its manufacture and consumption and attempts to control both, in the annals of the historical changes which have resulted in contemporary urban industrial society", he postulates.

And adds: "The public drinking house as a context for alcohol consumption, in relation to British society, has not evolved in a linear historical sense, nor in terms of a rational scheme for social change..." Look, what's yours?

Residents at Ringwood in Hampshire are raising a stink about a local farmer's plans to keep pigs near their homes. The house which would be worst affected, being right next door to the farrow barn, is called Pooh Cottage

Papal gem

No sooner do I tell you that the BBC World Service is to broadcast the play by Pope John-Paul II than I hear that theatrical impresario Bill Kenwright is to present the same work under a different title, *The Jeweller's*

Shop, at the Westminster Theatre. Opening three days before the pontiff's arrival in Britain its cast will include Hannah Gordon and Gwen Watford. Robin Phillips is to direct.

Listening in

The ricochet of political sniping returns in this week's issue of *The Listener*. On page 17 Sir Ian Gilmour, given the chance to review Nigel Fisher's book on Harold Macmillan, does not let slip the opportunity for some covert political attacks on Margaret Thatcher.

"Thus Fisher is said to show some small signs of having been mildly infected by the current economic fashion", and his comment that the sort of mixed economy Macmillan favoured "now finds general acceptance" is curiously described as "sanguine." Macmillan, Gilmour concludes, could have done more for investment and should have reformed industrial relations, but we have never had it so good again.

On page 26 Labour MP Philip Whitehead takes potshots at his near neighbour in Kenilworth, William Rodgers of the SDP. "We have lived not ten doors away from each other for many years but his book, *The Politics of Change*, reminds me of the houses in between."

It is a relief to find that on page 24 Gerald Kaufman, MP, is only writing about Maurice Chevalier.

PHS

Young offenders

From Dr Horner W. Sir, a new clause in the Criminal Justice Bill would allow the young offenders to stay at home between 5pm on weekdays and 11pm on weekends. This clause adds to the list of measures which are being considered by the Home Office. The clause is aimed at reducing the number of young offenders in custody. It is expected that the clause will be passed by the House of Commons in the near future.

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MR BREZHNEV'S CHINA CARD

Mr Brezhnev's appeal for improved relations with China from the relative proximity of Tashkent must be set against the long background of Sino-Soviet conflict. It is now ten years since President Nixon landed in Peking. He gave the Russians much more to worry about than they had had through years of argument with the Chinese. Divorce from China was bad. A possible war on two fronts was far, far worse. Gradually, however, their anxiety lessened as they reinforced their frontier, watched China's continuing instability following the cultural revolution, and built up hopes that the detente in Europe, formalised by the Helsinki agreement, would assure them stability in the west. While that lasted there was less cause to worry about China's friendship with America.

In the last three years instability in Europe, both military and political, has altered the balance. Detente has languished and the Russians have become worried by Nato's plans to install new missiles in Europe. Poland — always the most sensitive country on the western frontier — has become dangerously unstable. The Soviet Union's western flank no longer seems quite so secure. This may provide one reason for turning east to see if the Chinese mood has become more accommodating. Another could be to show Washington that Russia, too, can play the China card.

The first moves were made in 1979, by which time Mr Deng Xiaoping had succeeded the too cautious and inhibited Mr Hua Guofeng as China's policy maker. Talks were begun that autumn in Moscow, but with little hope of success; indeed after six meetings even the agenda had not been finalised. And then came Afghanistan to inflame yet

another corner of Soviet anxiety. The talks that were to have been resumed in Peking the following spring were curiously dismissed by the Chinese.

Since then the Russians have had better reason to hope for some response from the Chinese, thanks to Mr Reagan. His presidency has worried the Russians in Europe but has also worried the Chinese because of his attitude to Taiwan. The argument has gone on between Peking and Washington for almost a year with China's attitude steadily hardening to the point of saying that if there is no change in Washington, their relations must remain at a standstill or may deteriorate. Seeing the possibility of these cracks opening up it is natural for the Russians to reach out for a new test of Chinese intentions.

They offered talks last September and renewed the offer at the beginning of last month. In January, Mr Sergei Tikhvinsky, a Soviet China expert with much experience of the country before the communists came to power, paid a visit to Peking as Chairman of the Sino-Soviet Friendship Association. Probably Mr Brezhnev's offer would not now have been made unless he had some reason to expect a response. Of course the Chinese could be applying pressure as a means of applying pressure to Washington. But it is doubtful whether that alone would prompt a warm reply. Undoubtedly there have been disagreements among the Chinese leaders during the past fifteen years over the extent of the break with the Russians and even more over friendship with the United States. The army in China was well aware of its inferiority to the Russians divisions they faced — the clashes in 1969

brought that home — but while Mao lived his bravura was enough to silence grumbling. Lately, China's economic "readjustment" has banished any hope that modern weapons will redress the military balance on the frontier in any foreseeable future.

Equally there have been critics of the friendship with the Americans, especially since Mr Deng's galvanizing in Washington and Texas suggested that he was ready to make more concessions to buy this friendship than China should risk. It is hard to calculate how much these objections to the Russian and American relationships have impeded Mr Deng in bringing about the economic and political changes in China of the past two years, but the evidence of tactical diversions and some outright reversals of policy suggests that stubborn resistance in some army circles has been a constant factor.

Asked by his visitors — American senators among them — why China has no hope of lessening the Soviet threat, Mr Deng's answer has always been that China will believe in Soviet goodwill the moment the Russian divisions on the frontier begin to be reduced. Without such a gesture, China's suspicion will remain. Can Mr Brezhnev hope for a Chinese move that would simultaneously nudge President Reagan on the subject of Taiwan and encourage the Russians to withdraw one or two divisions from the frontier? Certainly the Chinese have shown their resolution over Taiwan in the past few months, as might have been expected by those who know China's feelings about the island. It is much less easy to define any concessions that China might think it worth making to improve relations with Moscow.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT ON THE INDEX

Members of Parliament, on £13,950 a year plus expenses, are poor paid compared with most of their fellow legislators in the industrialized world and compared, in particular, with the fat cats at Strasbourg. Domestic comparisons give a similar impression: when MPs get their salaries rise last summer the head of a recreation parks department in a third tier local authority was getting about the same and has shot up since.

It is not so much that the public grudges them their pay as that governments are fearful of the effect of a substantial rise upon other claimants. Even this government, newly elected in a mood to discountenance all incomes policies, tried to spread a recommended rise over three years as an example, only to provoke a backbench revolt.

From time to time the House appoints a select committee or passes a motion to rectify the position. Still the rate remains low and its upward mobility sluggish. To get a higher place in the earnings league they would have done better to place their affairs in the hands of Mr Clive Jenkins.

The select committee that reported this week is not concerned with the amount but with ways of fixing the amount. Two ways have been tried and one recommended. After the first apologetic authorization by members of Parliament to pay themselves a stipend out of national funds in 1911, the Ministry or a committee of the House would from time to time make

a recommendation as to the amount and the recommendation would or would not be implemented.

Then, in 1963, the first of the independent reports was commissioned. They are now undertaken at irregular intervals by the Review Body on MPs' Salaries. It was thought that a more thorough and more impartial examination could be conducted that way. It was also thought that it would help to take the question out of politics, a vain hope. The House still has to authorize payment of the money and the Government still has to make provision for it in the estimates, so the old stickiness and embarrassments still surround the procedures.

Those are the two ways that have been tried. The recommended way, recommended inter alia by a resolution of the House, is to go for linkage; tie the rate to that of say, an assistant secretary in the civil service, then sit back and watch it go up.

The latest select committee has gone for a combination of methods two and three. It wants regular reviews, its depth by a Review Body on MPs' Salaries, to consider changes in work load and what might be regarded as the appropriate level of pay and allowances; and it wants "interim linkage" or automatic annual adjustments between reviews by reference to the nearest percentile in the Department of Employment's New Earnings Survey. It would like the major reviews to be held and decisions arising out of them

taken in the last year of a Parliament, thus sparing the freshly elected members their blushes as they vote themselves more money.

This is a little too pat. The vehicle for riding the inflationary road is too well sprung for the type of passenger it carries. MPs need primarily more generous allowances for defraying expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties. To do their work they need to have better facilities and assistance than is now at the disposal of most of them. And there is no objection to that element in their remuneration being indexed for inflation once the level is properly determined.

Their salaries too, which ought to be middling, deserve to go up a bit. After that, however, there is a lot to be said for stickiness in the procedure for adjusting them. While the Civil List for royal expenses should be adjusted for inflation with the minimum fuss, the rate of salary paid from public funds to members of Parliament should be adjusted with the maximum of fuss. It may be a primitive view, but it is surely sound one, that the elected collective, in the Palace of Westminster, unlike the family in Buckingham Palace, is uniquely (though far from exclusively) responsible for the social evil of a debased currency; that it has unique (though not absolute) authority to palliate the mischief; and that it has no business to fix itself up with a lifeboat until it has taken the passengers off.

Young offenders

From Dr Harriet Wilson
Sir, A new clause has been tabled to the Criminal Justice Bill which would allow the courts to order young offenders aged 10-21 to stay at home between 6 pm and 8 am on weekdays and from noon at weekends.

This clause adds to the measures which are embodied in clauses 22 and 23 of the Criminal Justice Bill, all of which in effect enable the courts to impose sanctions upon parents. I do not wish to comment on the justice of relieving young offenders of the responsibility for paying a fine or compensation and imposing this payment on parents, or of imposing upon parents the onerous duty of guarding teenagers or young adults who under house arrest. My concern is merely to question the effectiveness of such measures.

For the last 15 years my colleagues and I, with Home Office support, have been investigating the methods used by parents who live in high-crime areas in preventing their children from becoming delinquent. We have found evidence of the effectiveness of a strict parental regime. Children from such homes tend to be only marginally, if at all, involved in antisocial pursuits. The children who become involved in more serious offences and, often at an early age, come from homes where supervision is lax.

This finding appears to support

a policy of legal measures designed to strengthen the authority of parents. But the matter is not as simple as that. The parents who supervise their children's activities do so because they have ideas about what is right and what is wrong. Their children receive two sorts of message — first, that certain kinds of behaviour are undesirable and, secondly, that certain children are not behaving in a manner that would warrant closer acquaintance. The technique of strict supervision of the younger child turns into imposed control as the child grows older.

Two factors contribute to the success of responsible parenting — material resources and parental resourcefulness. Gross and persistent poverty means that children are prevented from taking part in any activities that cost money and from developing hobbies and special interests. The art of supervising children in high-crime areas depends to a large extent on offering alternatives to the excitement of street life. This does not mean that families in poverty do not supervise their children; we have interviewed many families on subsistence incomes who persist in keeping up behavioural standards. But when poverty is coupled with parental illness or disability, as is often the case, parental resources are drained, and the attention of parents is focused on survival. Their children learn at an early age to fend for themselves.

It is obvious that court orders to pay their children's fines or to supervise curfew would not alter the predicament of these parents. What is needed is the relief of poverty. What to do with their children, once delinquent, is one of the seemingly intractable problems that led to the collapse of the rehabilitative ideal among reformers.

Lax parenting methods of better-off families present very different problems. Laxness is not always a form of negligence. Parents often try to compensate their children for the harshness experienced in their own childhoods. These parents would benefit from access to educators with whom they could discuss behavioural problems. This could be a function of the staffs of nursery groups, or of infant and junior schools. It could be provided in some forms of day-care for young offenders.

If lasting contacts could be made with staffs in the form of dialogues to explore the constraints of the environment, the hang-ups of tradition and fashion, and the growing pressures of the current economic crisis, then there is hope that something useful could emerge for parents.

Yours sincerely,
HARRIET WILSON,
Visiting Fellow,
University of Warwick,
Department of Sociology,
Coventry, March 19.

Watching brief on cable television

From Mr David Widdicombe, QC

Sir, There is an aspect of cable television which has not been mentioned in any of the current enthusiastic reporting about it. As I discovered when I was in the United States recently, where cable TV is installed, the operating company can and does keep a computerised record of the essential habits of its subscribers. It can tell who watches what and when.

I hope the Government inquiry will examine this "1984" aspect of the system as well as the obvious benefits.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID WIDDICOMBE,
2 Mitre Court Buildings,
The Temple, EC4A,
March 23.

From Mr Rory Johnston

Sir, The report on the future of cable systems published today (March 22) by the Prime Minister's Information Technology Advisory Panel presents an exciting glimpse of the many possible services it will offer. However, one serious implication does not seem to have been considered at all by the Government. Cable services will greatly encourage the spread of "electronic mail", whereby communications at present sent by letter will be delivered along the cable electronically, at an instant and at a fraction of the cost.

Electronic mail can therefore be expected to take away a large part of the Post Office's current business. But the post is an essential service and the Government must ensure that it does not have a connection to a cable or the necessary terminal equipment. How can the Post Office survive with its revenue drastically cut while its costs stay the same? The postman has to walk past your house whether he has any letters for you or not.

Clearly a coordinated policy has to be thought out for all these communications services taken together. This is more difficult to achieve rather than for a single service, such as the Post Office, which has been separated. The Government has not contemplated the problem yet, and it must do so without delay.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. D. JOHNSTON,
49 Upper Park Road, NW3.

National Service

From Mr Christopher I. D. Simpson

Sir, I read with interest Mr Desmond Neiligan's letter (March 18), concerning the use of National Service. He questioned the viability of commencing a new call-up campaign but, alas, I fear that it is as far as such dreams will go.

As he points out, in the late 1950s everyone accepted conscription as a way of life, but after such a long break a national boom of anarchy and apathy would greet any new suggestions of National Service. The time when all one hears about is how the Services are being cut back, and how the dole queue is growing, one could hardly expect youths to sign up for service only to sit around doing nothing for a majority of the time when they can do that out of uniform.

People that do want a taste of Service life have the chance to join such organizations as the Territorials. Should a new era of conscription begin, then the conscripts would experience vast displays of anarchy, probably in the form of demonstrations and street riots, similar to those that we endured last summer.

In a period of much discontent amongst younger members of the population one couldn't expect them to join the Services as another alternative to the dole queue or job creation schemes.

Yours faithfully,
C. I. D. SIMPSON,
Royal Holloway College,
University of London,
Egham Hill, Egham, Surrey.

Italian mail delays

From Mr David McCormick

Sir, Your correspondents who grumble (March 18, 20) about the Italian mail delays may simply be unlucky. Certainly, most of my own correspondence to and from Italy takes four or five days; and the record is an express packet from a small town half way down the Adriatic, which took a mere 29 hours from post office to front door.

Incidentally, express letters from the United Kingdom now go by "Swiftair" — an oddity, in that "swift" is a word very little known by foreigners — and the extra postage is £1.50, not the £1 claimed by one of your correspondents.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MCCORMICK,
122 Cambridge Street, SW1.

Death of a newspaper

From Mr C. G. Pole-Carew

Sir, Your article by Alan Hamilton (March 18) on the closure of the Nottingham News is inaccurate in its reporting and for a paper of your standing remarkably biased.

You have referred to me at considerable length and the company of which I am managing director, yet you did not even have the courtesy to elicit our version of the facts.

The strike in 1973 was not caused by our determination to introduce the latest printing technology against the union's will: the in-putting by journalists direct into computer did not in fact take place in this company until 1976. The strike was caused solely through an inter-union dispute regarding who did what

Arab unrest in the West Bank

From Sir Anthony Nutting

Sir, The unrest on the West Bank, reported so graphically by your correspondent over the past few days, reflects unquestionably the natural desire of the Palestinians to be free from alien occupation. The high-handed dismissal by the Israeli occupation of the democratically elected municipal council of El-Bireh which sparked the latest riots was just another example of the repression meted out to the Palestinians by their conquerors over the past 15 years, and demonstrates the duplicity of Mr Begin's pretensions to offer autonomy to the West Bank in accordance with the requirements of the Camp David agreement.

In this situation it is really proper or wise for Lord Carrington to visit Israel, as he shortly proposes to do, for the purpose of improving Anglo-Palestinian relations? Will such a visit at such a time not cause grave offence and suspicion not only to the Arab states and the Palestinians but to the entire Third World? The latest shootings of unarmed civilians by Israeli troops and the dismissal of the El-Bireh municipal council have been roundly condemned by the Israeli Labour opposition and by wide sections of the Israeli press.

However much the Foreign Secretary may intend, during his visit, to demonstrate privately with Mr Begin about these repressions, the fact remains that his arrival now on a mission of friendship will be a thoroughgoing insult to the Arab states and the Palestinians and her contempt for repeated demands by the United Nations for her withdrawal from the occupied territories.

As far as I know, no British Government has ever unsaid the words of the 1939 White Paper, which solemnly proclaimed that the Government would regard it as "contrary to their obligations to the Arabs under the Mandate, to establish a Jewish state in Palestine".

Yours faithfully,
YOA'AV BIRAN,
Embassy of Israel,
2 Palace Green, W8.

Vatican relations

From Professor Colonel G. I. A. D. Draper

Sir, Your Religious Affairs correspondent concludes his article "Full relations with Vatican resumed" (March 18), with the following sentence: "Technically relations are established with the Holy See, an entity in international law independent of the Vatican State which was granted recognition by the international community by the Congress of Vienna in 1815."

That is a curious observation which marks some confusion of the international law position today of the Vatican State, the Holy See, and its incumbent, the Supreme Pontiff. The Lateran Treaty of 1929, concluded between Italy and the Holy See, in article 2 provided: "Italy recognizes the sovereignty of the Holy See in the international domain as an attribute inherent in its nature, according with its traditions and with the requirements of its mission in the world."

By article 26 of that treaty Italy recognized the state of the Vatican City, in international law, under the sovereignty of the Supreme Pontiff. Thereby the Lateran Treaty created a new international law state persona-

lity, the Vatican City, with the incumbent of the Holy See, the Supreme Pontiff, as its Head of State. That state is quite a distinct international law personality from that of the Holy See, a non-state international law personality.

This international law knows of a state, sovereign and independent, namely, the Vatican City, and a Head of that state, the incumbent for the time being of the Holy See, namely, the Supreme Pontiff. Both are international law persons, but only the Vatican City is a personality as a state.

This would appear to be a different position from that enjoyed by Popes before the annexation of the papal states to the Kingdom of Italy in 1870, when the Popes were monarchs of them and, as such, equal with all other monarchs of that time, but unique in being also heads of the universal Church. The papal states, or the patrimony of St. Peter, can rest its creation from the time of Pepin-le-Bref, and Charlemagne.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
G. I. A. D. DRAPER,
16 Southover High Street,
Lewes, Sussex,
March 18.

member without cost to the owner, if the member responsible for the scheme is not insured. Insurers have agreed to underwrite the scheme and we believe that it will give the public greater confidence in the long-term guarantees issued by participating companies. Such participation will be limited to the members of the two associations.

The scheme will operate independently of the two associations and for some time the acting trustees have been in discussion with the Office of Fair Trading and the Department of Trade to finalise the details. It is hoped that the scheme can commence to operate in the late spring.

Insofar as the turnover in timber treatment companies is concerned, it is a condition of membership of this association that the companies applying shall have been substantially engaged in our field for a period of not less than three years. If they are able to comply with this requirement they are subjected to a stringent examination as to their technical competence, and it is a source of satisfaction that the number of failures in member companies over the years has been very modest in relation to the overall membership.

Yours faithfully,
J. BICK, Director,
British Wood Preserving Association,
Premier House,
150 Southampton Row, WC1.

Homes safeguard

From Mr J. Bick

Sir, I write in reference to the article appearing on page 14 of today's (March 22) Times in which you refer to the discussion paper on home improvements which has been published by the Office of Fair Trading. You refer to the problem of long-term guarantees which arises when a company issuing such a guarantee ceases to trade.

Members of the British Wood Preserving Association and the British Chemical Dampcourse Association have long been worried by a manifest weakness in long-term guarantees. For example, a contractor employed to eradicate insect or fungal attack, or to install a damp course, may issue a 30-year "guarantee" and then, within a few months, go out of business. The customer, despite the ostensible protection of the guarantee, has no recourse if the work fails to be effective during the lifetime of the guarantee.

To protect the public, this association has acted as a catalyst towards the formation of a guarantee cover scheme insofar as its own and the BCDA's members are concerned. The essence of the scheme is that each participating member will subscribe a substantial annual sum to a trust fund which will finance re-treatment in any property under guarantee by a

member without cost to the owner, if the member responsible for the scheme is not insured.

Insurers have agreed to underwrite the scheme and we believe that it will give the public greater confidence in the long-term guarantees issued by participating companies. Such participation will be limited to the members of the two associations.

The scheme will operate independently of the two associations and for some time the acting trustees have been in discussion with the Office of Fair Trading and the Department of Trade to finalise the details. It is hoped that the scheme can commence to operate in the late spring.

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Yours faithfully,
J. BICK, Director,
British Wood Preserving Association,
Premier House,
150 Southampton Row, WC1.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. POLE-CAREW,
Managing Director,
T. Bailey Foreman Limited,
Foreman Street,
Nottingham,
March 19.

Measure for measure

From the Principal and the Vice-Principal (Administration) and Registrar, University College, Cardiff

Sir, On page 12 of your issue of March 19, 6 Down House School scholars = 6.5 column centimetres and 40 Fellows of the Royal Society = 5.5 column centimetres.

Hence,
DHSS = $\frac{40 \times 6.5}{6 \times 5.5} = \frac{260}{33}$, and
FRS = 8 FRS.

Is this the new mathematics or the new technology?

Yours etc,
C. W. L. BEVAN,
L. A. MORITZ,
University College,
Cardiff,
March 20.

Incident in the Falklands

From Air Commodore R. G. Frow

Sir, The recent illegal landing in South Georgia by a group of Argentine scrap merchants, followed by the raising of the Argentine flag on this British territory, highlights the vital need to retain a British naval presence in the South Atlantic.

In this incident, HMS Endurance was alerted and could have intervened if the "invaders" had not peacefully withdrawn. After the withdrawal of this ship, 42 Royal Marines will be the sole British military presence in the South Atlantic, and without a ship they "cannot exert British influence outside their base in the Falklands."

In 1977, the illegal occupation of South Thule by Argentine military "specialists" was a warning shot and, in 1982, is now followed by this provocative demonstration. Argentina has publicly welcomed the withdrawal of British forces as a sign of goodwill by Britain. It is still not too late to cancel this madness.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. FROW,
Honorary Secretary,
United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee,
2 Greycoat Place, SW1,
March 23.

Romans and morals

From the Reverend Eric Mathison

Sir, When you have been discredited, to claim a moral victory is just part of the game; and Mrs Mary Whitehouse's version of the withdrawal of the prosecution's case against *The Romans* in Britain really cannot be allowed to go unchallenged.

She claims that she has established an important point of law. She has, of course, done nothing of the kind. Mr Justice Staughton's rulings in this case are open to dispute and it will still have to be tested whether or not a judge's ruling after a *nolle prosequi* are binding.

What Mrs Whitehouse has achieved is to make it likely that there will be an amendment to the Theatres Act to ensure that private prosecutions like her own will no longer be possible. For that we must be grateful to her.

More serious is her apparent claim, yet again, to be the guardian of the nation's morals. Her theology in this respect is quite misconceived. It is an axiom of Christian moral teaching that one's service to the Lord must be given freely; a Christian conscience cannot be coerced. There are many examples from Christian history to show the evil that results from trying to do so.

But perhaps even more important is the disturbing thought that Mrs Whitehouse seems to think that the year of stress and anguish that she has inflicted on Michael Bogdanov and his family is a reasonable price to pay for the points that she was anxious to make. I cannot agree with her. Compassion and charity may sometimes be inconvenient but, for someone acting from a Christian conscience, they must surely be paramount.

Yours faithfully,
ERIC MATHISON,
Vicar of St Alphege, Southwark, and Chaplain to the National Theatre,
National Theatre,
South Bank, SE1,
March 22.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Mr S. Cresswell

Sir, Mr Dancer (March 23) tells us some interesting things about leeches. But you also find them in Burma, as many members of the Fourteenth Army and XV Indian Corps will testify.

They were also to be found on BCG's (March 19) of *The Times*. Dancer's letter was published and on the back of Bogart at that! I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
S. CRESSWELL,
32 Manor Road Extension,
Oadby,
Leicester.

Upstaged

From Mr Laurie Lister

Sir, On page 13 of last Friday's edition (March 19) of *The Times* Preview it was stated that the "first staged version of the legendary MGM film, *The Wizard of Oz*, opens in London next week."

In 1969, when I was in charge of the Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford, I presented it there for the Christmas season. I too found obtaining the rights very difficult; it took me well over six months to obtain them. Yours faithfully,
LAURIE LISTER,
Smasham Orchard,
Sharnham Green,
Surrey,
March 20.

Measure for measure

From the Principal and the Vice-Principal (Administration) and Registrar, University College, Cardiff

Sir, On page 12 of your issue of March 19, 6 Down House School scholars = 6.5 column centimetres and 40 Fellows of the Royal Society = 5.5 column centimetres.

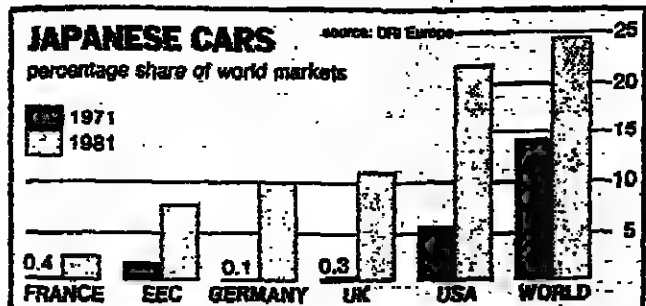
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FRS = 8 FRS.

Is this the new mathematics or the new technology?

Yours etc,
C. W. L. BEVAN,
L. A. MORITZ,
University College,
Cardiff,
March 20.

BUSINESS NEWS

Car exports cut



The Japanese are restricting car exports to the United States, the country's foreign ministry has announced. Although actual limits are not known, it is thought they will not be higher than the 1.68 million vehicles shipped to the United States last year. Japanese cars captured 9.15 per cent of the United Kingdom market in the first two months of this year compared with 11.47 per cent last year. New registrations in Britain were 4 per cent higher in February at 160,430 against the same month a year ago.

Move to untangle ACC bids

Barclays Merchant Bank, Heron Corporation's advisers in its contested bid for Associated Communications Corporation, plans to ask ACC's adviser, Standard Chartered Bank, which bid price it is backing from ACC's other bidders, Robert Holmes & Court, Mr. Holmes & Court's TVW Enterprises has two bids on the table — one worth 110p a share, and another worth 95p. Heron has not yet decided whether to increase its bid — worth 90p per non-voting share — or withdraw.

Coal power 'breakthrough'

A world lead in the new generation of coal-fired merchant ships has been won by Doncaster-based Macawber Engineering Group, with a £500,000 order for coal fired systems for two bulk-carriers from Spain's Elcano shipping group. Macawber is supplying systems to all six of the new coal ships at present on order or under construction. The company expects further orders from many other countries including the United States, which it expects to back coal-fired ships strongly.

Tough budget for South Africa

Against the background of falling gold prices and world recession, Mr Owen Horwood, the South African Finance Minister, yesterday presented one of the toughest budgets for many years. It included big increases in taxes on companies, individuals and luxury goods and tight controls on government expenditure. London insurers paid \$123m for Rosses on the Aviation Insurance Offices Association said. Victor Company of Japan (JVCI) AEG Telecommunications, West Germany and Thoma EMI have formed JVT Holdings in Rotterdam to control the manufacture of video products in Europe.

MARKET SUMMARY

Lucas fall darkens top 30

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 662.6 down 1.7
FT 100 69.13 down 0.42
FT 100 share 326.04 up 0.29
Bargains 19,893

Lucas Industries was an outstanding fall among the top 30 shares, slipping 11p to 197p amid talk that half year results today would bring gloomy news. After the apparent recovery in the second half of last year, the market was looking for at least £40m in the current year. But with continuing losses in the electronics division and a flat performance from aerospace activities, the interim figures are expected to be about £10m pre-tax suggesting £25m for the full year. Elsewhere company statements brought an optimistic note to the other side of the equity market, with the FT Index closing down 1.7 at 662.6.

Profit takers clipped up to 2% off long dated gilts, with medium term around 2% and short term unchanged after opening 2% better. Engineering group Braby Leslie shed 3p to 83p after Anglo-Nordic Holdings subsidiary CHI Securities took its holding to 26.3 per cent by picking up the 14.5 per cent stake formerly held by Stavest Investment Holdings. The board of Braby Leslie has been assured by Mr Brian Wolfson CHI director that it is an investment stake and that no bid is being considered. Beeston fell on 16p to 388p after reporting a 9 per cent boost in profits, but cable maker BICC

COMMODITIES

March cocoa tumbled £30 to £1,000 to 1000 and May to £1,010, close to the lowest prices for nine months. Prices were depressed by unconfirmed reports that Nigeria, which is believed to have 150,000 tonnes of 1981/2 crop to sell, will be forced by falling oil prices to unload more cocoa. After a quick slide in early morning trading when traders were disappointed by the adjustment of the International Tin Council talks on export controls, tin prices rallied. Cash metal was 533 higher at £7,235 a tone and three months up on £45 to £7,452.

TODAY

Industry and Trade Select Committee hearing on the Post Office. Energy Secretary, Lord Hailsham, will announce government borrowing requirements (fourth quarter); United Kingdom banking sector statistics (fourth quarter); money stock (fourth quarter). Board meetings: Interim: A and G Security Electronics, Fairview Estates, Howden Group, Lucas Industries, Saga Holidays, Strong and Fisher, Finlay: Automated Security, Banro, Consolidated Industries, BBA Group, Benmore, BSA, Cambridge Electronics, Electric and General Investments, Friedland Doggart, Leyland Paint and Wallpaper, Manders Holdings, Bernard Matthews, Metal Closures Group, Noble and Lund, Open Transport and Trading, Tricentral, United Newspapers.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,194.31 up 96.51.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,223.38 up 2.2.

CURRENCIES

The French franc spent an unsettled day. The dollar, weaker at first on lower interest rates, recovered ground later. The pound traded quietly on the sidelines. LONDON CLOSE
STERLING \$1.8085 up 60 points
Index 91.4 up 0.2
DM 4.3100
Fr. 11.2500
Yen 439.00
DOLLAR Index 114.8 down 0.1
DM 2.3865 up 20 pts.
GOLD \$332.00 up \$2.50

MONEY MARKETS

The undertone was slightly easier among period rates. The Bank's final forecast was a shortage of £700m. Base rates 13x
3 month interbank 13 1/2-13 3/4
EURO-CURRENCY RATES
3 month dollar 14 1/2-14 3/4
3 month DM 9 1/2-9
3 month Fr-F 29-28

Lift for franc fails to end EMS fears

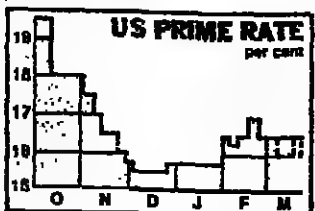
By Frances Williams

A further rise in French interest rates yesterday finally succeeded in lifting the franc off its permitted floor within the European Monetary System, helped by a weaker dollar. But there is no sign that foreign exchange markets have revised their opinion that an EMS realignment is on the cards.

Hopes that lower interest rates in the United States may pave the way for further cuts elsewhere in Europe received encouragement from easier short-term American rates and news that a small American bank, Southwest Bank of St Louis, had cut its prime lending rate from 16 1/2 to 16 per cent.

The Bank of France yesterday raised its call money rate from 17 to 18 per cent, the highest level since October last year. The move was widely expected after the bank's decision on Tuesday to increase the seven-day treasury discount rate from 18 to 20 per cent.

Euro-franc rates also rose yesterday, reflecting speculation against the currency. The effect was to lift the franc from its EMS floor of Fr 2.62 against the Deutsche mark, where it opened trading, so Fr 2.6166 at the Paris fixing. It also came off its floor against the Dutch guilder. But renewed pressure from the United States during the afternoon pushed



it back down to the floor twice more before the franc closed in London 1.6 per cent below its central parity against the Deutsche mark, well clear of the maximum permitted divergence of 2 1/2 per cent.

Despite the insistence of Mr Jacques Delors, the French Finance Minister, that the franc will not be devalued, traders remain unconvinced. Many observers feel that an EMS realignment could come within weeks, if not days.

The dollar was weaker for most of the day, after a lower fed funds rate. The United States key money market rate on Tuesday and easier Eurodollar rates, though it picked up towards the end of trading. After opening in Europe at around DM 2.3750, it ended the day 20 points up at DM 2.3865.

Nigerian curbs cause business confusion

By Rupert Morris

The Kuwait cabinet, at an emergency meeting yesterday, discussed the sheikhdom's oil strategy. This coincided with reports that last week's meeting in Vienna of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had clamped an 800,000 barrels a day ceiling on Kuwait's production.

Kuwait had a target of 1.5 million barrels a day for this year. However, the glut on the international oil market forced it to cut its output to an average of 855,000 barrels — the lowest in the country's history.

A Kuwait Finance Ministry report earlier this week warned that Kuwait, which had a budget surplus of \$5,000m last year, will be facing an annual deficit of at least \$3.5m by the end of the decade even if it managed to maintain its oil production at one million barrels a day.

Nigeria's Central Bank ordered all commercial banks on Tuesday that no existing letters of credit — the means for financing most imports — were to be extended or renewed, and no forms required for the release of foreign exchange were to be registered.

The Central Bank wants banks to give details of foreign exchange commitments and import bills by next Tuesday. The action has been prompted by Nigeria's inability to sell enough of its relatively expensive oil at a time of world glut. Oil is its main source of foreign currency.

Reagan seeking broad powers over trade

From Bailey Morris, Washington, March 24

The Reagan Administration requested broad, new trade powers from the United States Congress today but stopped short of endorsing controversial protectionist legislation designed to limit the flow of imports into American markets.

Mr Brock told members who support "reciprocity" legislation designed to close United States markets to goods from certain countries that the administration wanted more power to limit trade in services but not trade in products. The White House position

Institute calms fears over new technology

Chips impact on jobs 'minimal'

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The silicon chip is having little impact on employment, a report on microelectronics in British industry, says.

The study, which was carried out by the Policy Studies Institute and backed by the Government, Quashees of some unions that electronic automation is destroying large numbers of jobs and the belief of some information technology enthusiasts that the chip will create many new jobs.

The PSI team, led by Mr Jim Northcott, looked at 1,200 companies for the study, which was funded by the Department of Industry and three private foundations. The results, related to the whole of industry, showed a net gain of 16,000 jobs up to the time of the survey (early last year).

Companies introducing microelectronics into their products added 23,000, but that was partially offset by a loss of 7,000 jobs in companies automating their manufacturing processes. However, the 18 month

Stock Exchange raises charges by only 4.2pc

Fears over brokers' fees

By Kevin Page

The Stock Exchange Council decided yesterday to maintain minimum commissions on small sales of shares at £7. The original plan envisaged the minimum charge rising to £10.

Last week, the council bowed to pressure from the investing institutions and raised charges across the board to give stockbrokers' income a boost of only 4.2 per cent against the 7.3 per cent increase proposed earlier this year.

Unveiling the new scale of charges, the council said they could not be described as excessive since inflation had risen by 88 per cent since

COMMISSION RATES

Consolidation	Making	Old	New
2,000	2,000	30.00	33.00
500	2,500	37.50	41.25
1,500	4,000	60.00	66.00
1,000	5,000	75.00	82.50
2,000	7,000	105.00	115.50
2,000	9,000	115.00	126.50
1,000	10,000	120.00	132.00
5,000	15,000	145.00	159.50
10,000	25,000	195.00	209.50

the last adjustment of commissions in 1975. However, the Stock Exchange warned it was unlikely the increases would maintain brokers' income in real terms.

The new charges would also fail to arrest the decline on the number of member firms.

As the chart shows, commissions at the lower end of the scale will rise from 1.5 per cent to 1.65 per cent, up 10 per cent compared with the 16.7 per cent originally proposed.

Rises at higher level bars have also been cut.

The minimum charge on gilt sales rises from £4 to £7. The council has gone some way to meet objections from institutional investors about the cost of switching in and out of Government stocks.

Oil men open N Sea tax fight

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

The big North Sea oil companies are preparing to launch an all-out and unprecedentedly severe attack on the oil tax regime in the wake of the Budget. They will claim that the Chancellor's decision not to reduce the overall level of taxation has badly damaged Britain's chances of remaining self-sufficient in oil until the end of the century.

They will also say that virtually every discovery now being made by the industry is uneconomic or only marginally commercial.

Shell UK, the single most active North Sea operator, paved the way for the new campaign yesterday when it announced a 53 per cent decline in profits last year from £373m to £158m.

The company said it was having to reassess the economic viability of three or four accumulations of oil in the northern North Sea, each with recoverable reserves of 100 million to 150 million barrels.

Mr John Raisman Shell's chairman and chief executive, attacked the Chancellor's decision to replace Special Petroleum Duty with a system of advance payments of Petroleum Revenue Tax, maintaining the overall North Sea tax take.

He said it was not in the long-term interests of the country. "It is unlikely to stimulate the extension of oil self-sufficiency into the next decade or indeed into the next century," he warned.

The tax regime, already attacked by the chairman of BP and Lamsco, is expected to be raised at the next meeting of the United Kingdom Offshore Operators' Association, representing all the major companies involved in the North Sea. They will demand an urgent meeting with the Chancellor and Mr



Raisman: attacked oil tax decision.

Nigel Lawson, Secretary of State for Energy. The companies will point out that profitability of existing fields has been cut by an average of 30 per cent from what it was before Special Petroleum Duty was introduced last year.

There are also about 30 "marginal" discoveries containing enough oil to meet Britain's needs for up to a decade, that are now unlikely to be developed in the present

climate of falling oil prices and high taxes, the industry claims. No new commercial fields have been discovered since 1976.

The industry is also unhappy with some aspects of the changes to the structure of North Sea taxes made by the Chancellor earlier this month, and will accuse the Government of not doing anything to help the development of marginal fields.

Although comparisons are obvious, the public sector salaries compare unfavourably with rates of remuneration in the private sector. Public Boards 1982, Command 8526, HMSO £4.00.

Euroflame directors ousted

By Margaret Pagano

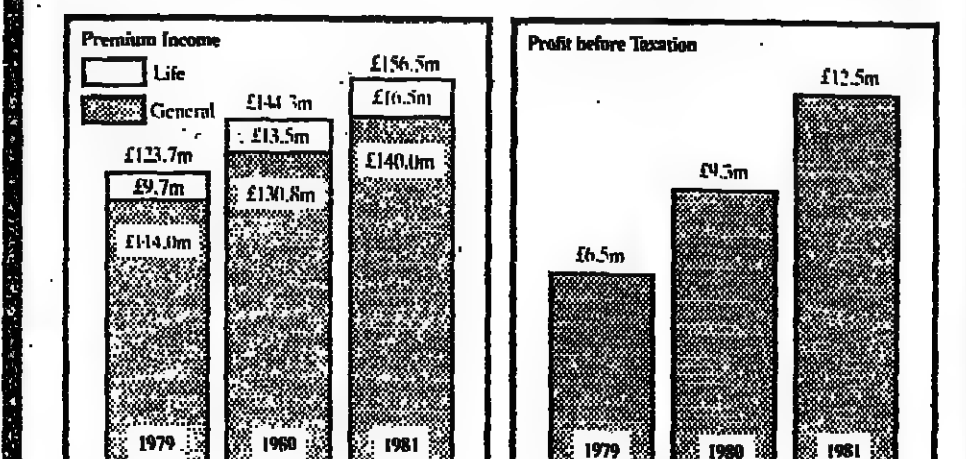
Three directors of Euroflame Holdings, the log stove company which is the subject of a Department of Trade inquiry were yesterday deprived by a board resolution of all executive authority and directed not to take part in any part of the business of the company or its subsidiaries after they had refused to resign from the board.

They are Mr John Viall, who claims still to be chairman and managing director, Mr Iwan Jones and Mrs Gabrielle Jones. All are believed to be seeking legal advice.

The board also resolved to call an extraordinary general meeting as soon as possible to consider the removal of these directors. The news comes after last Friday's announcement that Euroflame (UK) the main operating subsidiary of Euroflame Holdings, had put itself into voluntary liquidation.

Cornhill Insurance Group 1981 Results

	1981	1980
Premium Income	£000	£000
General business	139,994	130,795
Life business	16,483	13,508
	156,477	144,303
Profits		
General business		
Underwriting result	(5,656)	(5,572)
Investment income attributable to general insurance funds	13,123	10,842
General insurance profit	7,467	5,270
Life insurance profit	100	100
Investment income attributable to shareholders' capital and reserves	4,883	4,072
Other income	492	195
Share of associated company result	(396)	(333)
Profit before taxation	12,546	9,304



Copies of the Report & Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at 32 Cornhill, London, EC3N 3LJ

Cornhill Insurance Group
A member of the Thomas Tilling Group

Squeeze at the tuckshop ... and a lesson in history

Pocket money cut adds to sweet problem

The intriguing statistic that youngsters' pocket money has been cut 16 per cent this past year has implications for a wide range of sectors, from toys to confectionery, Derick Harris writes. There were three illustrations from company results yesterday in the soft drinks and confectionery sectors.

Maynards manufactures confectionery, much of it sugar-based and selling in the lower price ranges where sales to youngsters are strong. Volume was up 2.5 per cent in United Kingdom sales but, particularly with sugar prices artificially high because of European Community structuring, profits suffered.

There could have been trading down in the pocket money market, said Mr David Martin, company secretary. The company's toy retailing sales were hit.

With Maynards expansion the turnover rose more than 20 per cent in the half year while profit pretax at £1.36m declined more than 10 per cent on the comparable period of 1980. The dividend was unchanged at 3.125p.

Sugar-based confectionery has shown sales declines of at least 2 per cent in the past year while chocolate varieties have risen marginally.

That lies behind the performance of Hales Owen-based Blue Bird Confectionery Holdings in the West Midlands but the problem of shrinking pocket money is also an element, according to Mr Edward Nassar, Blue Bird's chairman. Blue Bird's home sales in the half year were down 9.8 per cent although exports have leaped by a half.

In the half year to last July a marginal loss was turned to a pre-tax profit of £200,899 on a £4.8m turnover. The dividend was unchanged at 1.45p.

Manchester-based J N Nichols (Vimto), had final pre-tax profits of £2.56m, compared with £1.884m in the previous nine months, effectively a near 5 per cent increase. Final dividend was up 3p to 10p.

It could have been caught like many other soft drinks manufacturers with sales downturns put at 10 per cent overall.

But Nichols has strongly penetrated the supermarket multiples and widened its drinks range.

Statistics from: *Pocket Money Monitor*, Birds Eye Wall's 1982, based on Gallup research.

Vickers looks overseas

Confidence positively shines from Vickers' chief executive, David Plastow as he details the group's new strategy: "The world business area is a key around which we are planning" (Sally White writes). As with so many other major British groups, the latest figures give a hint of further cuts at home and expansion abroad.

Vickers is still a long way from realizing its top executives' hopes for the engineering, Rolls-Royce cars and office equipment group: that was the signal being read from the one for four rights issue to raise £23m that accompanied the 1981 profit figures.

Investors holding shares in Vickers are cautious, because of the vast amount of British industrial history it incorporates. Return on capital employed is around 11 or 12 per cent, against a target of 15 to 17 per cent in the short term. Achieving that means a lot of commercial evolution, for which, it seems, not enough cash is being generated by the Vickers business yet.

Yesterday's figures — the first full year under the new management team, transferred from Rolls-Royce after the 1980 merger — show sales up from £595m to £603m and pretax profit up by £5m to £24.6m when £8.9m interest



Plastow: His figures for Vickers hint at expansion

received in 1980 on nationalization compensation is excluded. The dividend is maintained at 12p after a 7.45p final, leaving the share price down 1p at 159 and the yield 10.8. The rights issue price is 133p. Vickers could have another major move up its sleeve — so Vickers followers deduce from two clues they see in yesterday's announcements. First, the maintenance of the dividend — which cynics say is effectively being funded by the rights issue. Secondly, the rights issue is less than expected. Ambitions for acquisitions are

voiced in the report. So, it is suggested Vickers could want to keep up the share price to make an acquisition for paper, and then come back for more cash. An engineering contractor could satisfy Vickers' desire to generate more of its profits overseas, and would, virtually, be a low cash consumer. (Interest payments, net are a horrific £18.3m in 1981.)

Vickers were bowed down by the weight of running out-of-date chunks of steel, shipbuilding and a disorganized office equipment side when it merged with Rolls-Royce in 1980. Rolls-Royce was desperately short of cash, but run by a highly regarded management team which included chief executive David Plastow and Tom Neville.

The new team's efforts to reduce staff and unprofitable businesses — 2,700 more were made redundant this year — are applauded. Mr Plastow has retocused simplified the operation of the business by organizing 40 operating subsidiaries into five divisions. He has produced incentive schemes to re-energise the lower tiers of management.

Rolls-Royce cars did best of Vickers' activities — the fall in the pound helped sales of the new Silver Spirit in the United States. Staff have been cut back by 350. So far this year overseas sales continue to do well.

The lithographic plates business is run by the Howson-Algraphy Group, a Vickers subsidiary.

INTERNATIONAL



UNITED STATES

General Motors has told suppliers it is considering a change in the method of acquiring steel. While the company declined to elaborate, industry observers are speculating on a switch from order-type to bid-type purchasing.

The president of the United Auto Workers predicted that the union's General Motor Council will approve tentative contract concessions with the corporation today. Four hundred unemployed Detroit car workers are to be retrained in aerospace jobs with the help of a \$300,000 (£166,600) Federal grant. After learning new skills, they will be taken on by the Rockwell corporation to build the long-range B-1 bomber.

JAPAN

As Japan's economy continues to falter, the Japan Economic Research Centre, a leading private research institute, has predicted that inflation-adjusted growth in both 1981 and 1982 will fall far short of government projections. Japan will send an official buying mission to France and Austria in May to buy more goods to try to rectify Japan's trade surplus with both countries.

WEST GERMANY

West Germany's import prices index rose 0.7 per cent last month to stand 4.6 per cent higher than a year earlier, the lowest year-on-year rise since February 1979. This followed year-on-year gains of 6.9 and 9.5 per cent respectively in January and December.

IVORY COAST

With the arrival in its coastal waters last week of the "Dan Duke" oil production rig, the Ivory Coast could become one of the world's net oil exporters. The rig will be used to bring into production the "Espoir" offshore field and is expected to produce 30,000 barrels a day.

CANADA

Canadian motor manufacturers have scheduled an output of 18,913 cars for assembly this week down from 22,345 last week and 20,328 in the same week last year. American Motors — Canada is to produce 600 cars which is down 610 last week and 781 a year ago.

BELGIUM

The business climate in the European Community deteriorated last month, ending a three-month trend of improvement, the European Commission reports. Its indicator of business confidence fell one point to minus 14.

BRAZIL

Brazil's per capita gross domestic product fell 5.8 per cent in 1981 over 1980, the first fall in 16 years, the central bank reported. Total gdp was down 3.5 per cent while the population grew 2.4 per cent in the year.

FRANCE

French industrial production fell 3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted seasonal basis in January after a 1.5 per cent rise in December.

AUSTRALIA

Australian production of uranium oxide last year was almost double the 1980 level because of output from the new Ranger Mine in Northern Territory.

ITALY

A spokesman for Fiat in Turin said there are no talks, and none have taken place at any level, on the possibility of Fiat taking a share in International Harvester.

Eagle Star

SUMMARY OF GROUP RESULTS FOR 1981

DIVIDENDS. The Directors are recommending to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 7th May 1982 a final dividend of 8p per share payable on 15th July 1982 to shareholders on the register as at the close of business on 17th June 1982. With the interim dividend of 7p per share which was paid on 15th January 1982 the total dividend for the year will be 15p per share (1980: 10.5p). The total cost of these dividends will be £20.6m.

RESULTS. Investment income in the shareholders' fund increased by 20 per cent to £88.3m. The pre-tax profits of Grovewood Securities were £15.8m which with £0.1m from associated companies brought the total income from investments to £104.2m (1980: £89.1m). Shareholders' long term profits were £14.3m (1980: £11.8m) after grossing up for income tax and corporation tax. General insurance underwriting made a loss of £42.7m (1980: £32.5m). General business premium income increased by 8 per cent. Overall pre-tax profits were £73.8m against £65.9m in 1980.



Sir Denis Mountain, B.L., Chairman.

	1981 £m	1980 £m
PREMIUM INCOME		
Fire, accident and motor	452.6	422.4
Marine, aviation and transport	24.7	20.1
Long term — annual premiums	164.0	149.6
— single premiums	120.0	72.1
	761.3	664.2
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		
Investment income*	88.3	73.8
Profits of Grovewood Securities	15.8	14.4
Share of associated companies' results	0.1	(0.1)
Shareholders' long term profits	14.3	11.8
Underwriting loss	(42.7)	(32.5)
Expenses not charged to other accounts	(2.0)	(1.6)
Surplus	73.8	65.9
Taxation	21.9	25.8
Minority interests	3.4	3.2
Net surplus for year available for appropriation	38.5	37.1
Staff profit sharing scheme	2.5	1.4
Less taxation	1.3	0.7
	37.3	36.4
Transfer to catastrophe reserve	2.0	2.0
Dividends	2.0	14.3
Balance added to retained profits and reserves	14.7	20.1

*After deducting £2.2m in respect of interest on loan notes (1980: £2.1m).

**After transfer from catastrophe reserve.

GENERAL COMMENTS. Throughout the world insurance underwriting has further deteriorated. Excess capacity and the effect of the recession on the availability of business have continued to increase competitive pressures.

INVESTMENTS. Investment income increased by 20 per cent. This most satisfactory result was helped by high interest rates and a positive cash flow. The free reserves of the group, including capital appreciation on investments other than those of the long-term insurance funds, amounted to 87 per cent of general insurance business premium income.

GENERAL INSURANCE. Our overall result is analysed by territory in the following table which includes an estimate of that part of investment income which arises on insurance funds —

	Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m	Investment income less expenses £m	1981 Total £m	1980 Total £m
United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland*	364.5	(26.6)	55.2	28.6	21.5**
Australia	22.0	(7.6)	2.0	(5.6)	(1.7)
Belgium	25.8	(2.9)	3.6	0.7	1.0
South Africa	45.7	(2.4)	3.1	0.7	2.5
USA	8.4	(0.6)	0.8	0.2	0.4
Other territories	9.9	(1.4)	1.5	0.1	(0.4)
Additional provision for unexpired risks (overseas business)		(1.2)		(1.2)	(0.8)
	477.3	(42.7)	66.2	23.5	22.5
Attributable to shareholders' funds			36.0	36.0	31.6
		(42.7)	102.2	59.5	54.1

*Including reinsurance and world-wide marine and aviation.

**After transfer from catastrophe reserve.

UNITED KINGDOM. There was fierce competition in all classes of business for the reducing volume of premium. There was an underwriting loss of £25.2m (1980: £25.0m) but after taking investment income on the funds into account there was a profit of £18.9m (1980: £13.0m). Both fire and "all-in" accounts suffered from the severe weather in December. There was an underwriting loss in the fire account of £2.1m (1980: £0.7m) and in the "all-in" account of £5.9m (1980: £4.2m). The motor account showed an underwriting loss of £6.5m (1980: £5.9m). In the liability account there has been an increase in late reported claims from earlier years arising from industrial diseases. There was an underwriting loss of £9.6m (1980: £13.1m).

OVERSEAS. There was an overall underwriting loss of £16.1m (1980: £7.2m) and a loss after attributable investment income of £5.1m (1980: profit £1.0m). The major part of the underwriting loss arose in Australia where the situation was exacerbated by the non-recurring effects of a recent court decision and the need to strengthen provisions for claims from earlier years. In South Africa after many profitable years there was an underwriting loss. In Belgium and the USA results were satisfactory.

MARINE AND AVIATION. Current underwriting is likely to prove unprofitable. The 1978 underwriting account was closed showing a small surplus and this together with provisions from earlier years no longer required enabled us to strengthen the open underwriting years and also to make a transfer of £1.0m to profit and loss account. The fund at the end of the year amounted to 143 per cent of premiums.

LIFE. World-wide new business produced new annual premiums of £39.7m (1980: £38.8m) and single premiums and considerations for annuities amounted to £120.0m (1980: £72.1m). The annual valuation of the UK life funds has again resulted in increased benefits to policyholders. Profits transferred to the shareholders' account were £8.1m (1980: £6.9m) net of tax, with a grossed-up value of £14.4m (1980: £11.7m) and after transfers in respect of non-UK subsidiaries the total amount was £14.3m.

GROVEWOOD SECURITIES LIMITED. In a continuing difficult economic climate Grovewood Securities produced a record profit for the fourteenth consecutive year, pre-tax profit rising to £15.8m (1980: £14.4m).

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1981 and the Chairman's Statement will be sent to shareholders on 8th April 1982.

Eagle Star Holdings PLC

1, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE

BICC 1981 Results and Final Dividend

PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION increased from £74.6 million to £101.9 million.

CURRENT COST PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION up from £55.1 million to £81.3 million.

CONTINUED STRONG PERFORMANCE in overseas cable-making but lower profits in UK.

EARNINGS PER SHARE up 9% at 25.2p on historic cost basis

DIVIDENDS increased by 10% to 10.37p per share.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE on plant and equipment up 25%.

ACQUISITIONS costing £73 million, principally in the electronic components sector.

RIGHTS ISSUE and other share issues during 1981 raised £72 million net of expenses.

FINANCIAL POSITION remains strong with gross debt at 40% of shareholders' funds.

OUTLOOK — continuing sound progress expected.

Group results for the year ended 31 December

	1981 £m	1980 £m
HISTORIC COST BASIS		
Sales	1604.3	1364.8
Operating profit	109.6	86.6
Finance charges	7.7	12.0
Profit before taxation	101.9	74.6
Taxation	41.9	28.6
Profit after taxation	60.0	46.0
Minority interests	18.0	9.8
Attributable profit	42.0	36.2
CURRENT COST BASIS		
Profit before taxation	81.3	55.1
Attributable profit	25.8	21.1
EARNINGS PER SHARE	p	p
Historic cost basis	25.2	23.1
Current cost basis	15.5	13.4
DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	10.37	9.43

The final ordinary dividend of 7.04p per share (1980: 6.40p per share) will, if approved, be paid to ordinary shareholders registered in the books of the Company on 21 May 1982. Warrants will be posted on 29 June 1982, payable 1 July 1982.

The complete press release is available from the Secretary, BICC plc, P.O. Box No. 5, 21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QN.

The 1981 annual report will be posted to share and loan stock holders on 24 April 1982.

The annual general meeting will be held in the Matthew Room, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1DU, on 20 May 1982 at 12 noon.

The above historic cost results exclude (a) extraordinary losses of £6.7m (1980: £3.5m) and (b) a special tax credit in 1980 of £10.6m.

BICC Cable-makers
Civil, electrical and mechanical
engineering and construction
Electrical and electronic components

حزب العمال

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

This would have been worse than the Wall Street crash...

Swift action as fear mounts in the City

● In the second of two articles on the secondary banking crisis of the mid-1970s Margaret Reid describes how the massive rescue operation was put together and assesses the cost

The Cedar Holdings crisis, which led the Bank of England and City institutions to put together a £2m rescue package in an attempt to stop panic, had not come as an unexpected shock to City of London insiders. They knew that, in the previous three weeks of disturbed conditions, many hard-pressed secondary banking companies had lost short-term funds through depositors switching cash to the safe haven of the large banks in what Mr Richardson, the Bank of England's governor, later called "a fit of collective prudence". These other banking businesses, often also in acute anxiety about how they would present their accounts for the end of the year, had urgently made known their troubles to their clearing banks, which had provided some first-aid through stand-by borrowing facilities. Many had hastened to the Bank of England, whose Discount Office was operating a system of early warning of impending trouble, under which information was swapped among the big banks more readily than in normal conditions.

As a result of these worrying developments, the Governor had already been discreetly in touch with the chairman of the large High Street clearing banks and had even held a secret meeting with them the previous afternoon while the Cedar marathon was under way elsewhere in the City. This gathering, the possibility of a joint rescue operation, involving up to £1,000m of support loans for the secondary banking sector, should the atmosphere of crisis not abate, had been mentioned. The fact that news of Cedar's rescue, so far from calming the atmosphere, provoked mounting fear in the City about the situation of many other secondary banks opened the way for a crucial decision. Up to this stage, the Bank of England had retained some hope that the gathering crisis could be tackled piecemeal, by wrestling with the problems of individual banking companies. But now, in the view of those at the head of the Bank of England, events pointed unmistakably to the need for a more generalised attack on the emergency.

THE LIFEBOAT — WHO GOT ON BOARD

Secondary banks helped with loans through the joint operation run by the Bank of England and clearing banks

months earlier. The clearers' chairman were accompanied by chief or senior general managers from their banks, while the governor and deputy governor were supported by senior Bank of England colleagues.

Mr Richardson formally proposed that the Bank should organise an operation whereby the clearing banks would jointly provide support loans to hard-pressed secondary banks to fill some or all of the gap left by the flight of funds from them. He pointed to the risk to the banking system of a further spread of alarm and stressed the need for a team effort to fend off the current dangers. It was an appeal both to common interest and the national interest.

Depositors of money with appropriate secondary and fringe banks were generally all to be protected, since it would be impossible, or at least undesirable, to limit help to small personal depositors only. It was important that the rescue operation should also guarantee the position of big depositors, since any failure by a fringe bank to pay back large money market deposits would have damaging repercussions on the creditor which had lent the money. The idea was that shareholders, as distinct from depositors, in the troubled secondary banks were not entitled to direct protection of their interests, although, of course, they would often be indirectly helped by the proposed support plan.

Essentially, the proposition was for a re-cycling arrangement. Since depositors had been withdrawing their deposits from the secondary banks and confiding them to the safe keeping of the large clearing banks, the idea was that the clearers should, on conditions, jointly provide money back to the secondary concerns. The fear that these fringe banks' assets might prove too deficient to finance full repayment of this aid, or

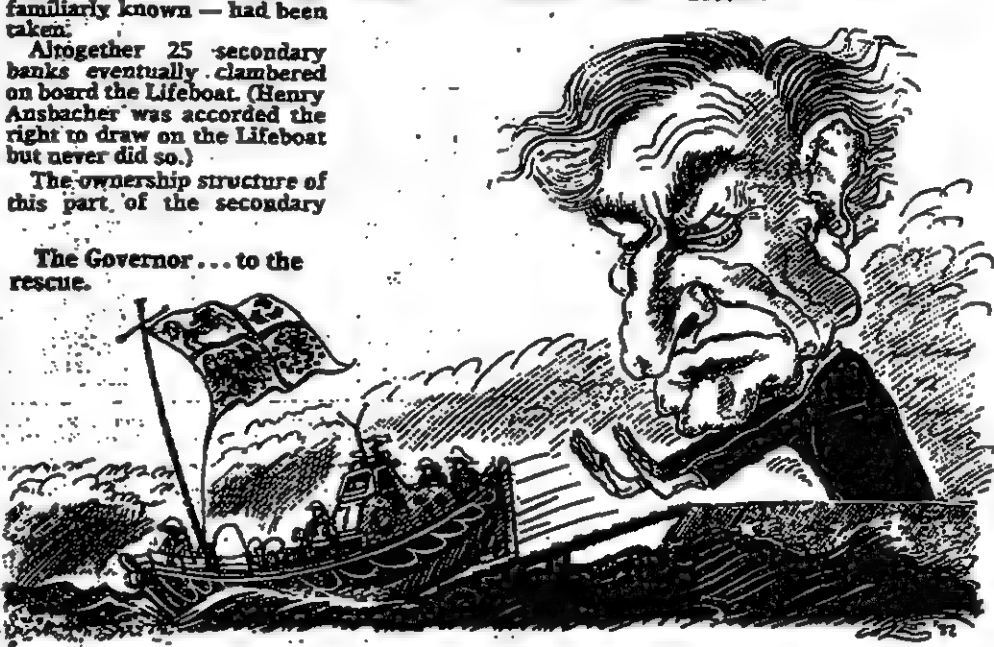
banking industry changed after the onset of the crisis. Of the 25, eight collapsed and another, Sterling Industrial Securities, was radically scaled down under the Crown Agents' supervision and later sold. Of the rest, no fewer than eleven had by the early months of 1981 passed, in whole or substantial part, under the control of larger groups, a process which generated much repayment of Lifeboat loans by the new owners. Several, including some later taken over, had recovered under their own power and dispensed with Lifeboat backing, which in one or two cases had been brief and indirect. But by late 1980, only a handful of the 25 remained as independent entities in the banking business. Lifeboat lending had been cut to some £500m by the end of 1979 when only United Dominions Trust, First National Finance Corporation and Knowlesy were borrowers; this figure had been further reduced a year later, mainly through large repayments by UDT.

After the big clearing banks had decided in August 1974 that they could not agree to the joint Lifeboat operation, lending being extended beyond about £1,200m, the Bank of England itself shouldered major responsibilities in dealing with later troubles. In particular, it committed large amounts to the support of the financial groups Slater Walker Securities and Edward Bates. Sir Jasper Holloom, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, told a House of Commons select

committee in 1978: "The heavier losses are outside the Lifeboat."

The Bank of England put aside a remarkable total of about £100m for the possible cost to itself of the whole rescue strategy, while the clearing banks may still face a bill of up to perhaps £50m, also already provided for in their accounts, for their own participation in the Lifeboat operation. These possible losses, as distinct from the much larger support lending, which was mostly ultimately repaid — show the magnitude of the burden the support operations may involve for those who conducted them.

The total provision of finance — as distinct from possible losses — involved in controlling the banking and related property crises was very large indeed. In addition to some £1300m advanced through the Lifeboat, large loan resources were used by the Bank of England and by various lending institutions and banks to sustain further millions of pounds more were supplied by the large banks to keep property groups afloat through this time of trial and to enable them to complete developments originally begun in the boom years. Much had later to be written against interest and repayment not received; the big banks' provisions against their property lending in this period certainly added £100m. The total finance exceptionally provided must have run into billions of pounds; some estimates suggest it was £3000m.



The Governor... to the rescue.

Company	Total assets (£m)	Experience in crisis
(Banking status, and whether shares quoted on the Stock Exchange; in each case as at end of 1973)	(Last balance sheet up to end of 1973; unless otherwise stated)	(Including maximum amount of support loans, if known, and sequel)
Audley Holdings section 123 co. (subsid. of Cornwell Estates, afterwards in liquidation; ultimate holding co. Kayrean, afterwards in receivership). Not quoted	2	Provided with support loans. Receiver appointed May 1975.
Beverly Bentinck (finance house). Not quoted. (Now British Credit Trust, owned by Bank of Ireland. Until May 1978, subsid. of Northern Foods). Shares of successive parents quoted.	36	Had some loans, backed by support group; these later repaid. Taken over in May 1978 by Bank of Ireland from Northern Foods for £11m
Bowmaker Listed bank (finance house) and section 123 co. (Subsid. of G. T. Bowring, whose shares were quoted; Bowring, including group, Bowmaker, taken over in 1980 by Marsh and McLennan of the US)	243	Received support loans within £25m maximum. Left Lifeboat in autumn of 1975, when remaining support loans were repaid and co. received a new medium-term loan from major banks and the Bank of England
British Bank of Commerce section 123 co., whose shares were quoted. (Now Grindlays Bank (Scotland), owned by Grindlays Bank)	59	Received support loans of £13.9m at the peak. Taken over in September 1974 for £3.3m by National and Grindlays Bank (now Grindlays Bank)
Burston Group Burston Finance subsid., a section 123 co. Group's shares were quoted	100	Burston Finance provided with support loans. Receiver appointed to it in Feb. 1975. 65 per cent taken over in 1975 by Texas Commerce Bank of the US, which already held 35 per cent. Parent co. afterwards in liquidation.
Cannon Street Investments (Cannon Street Acceptances subsid., a section 123 co.). Parent co.'s shares were quoted. Quotation still suspended and of 1980.	122	Cannon Street Acceptances received support loans up to £20m; receiver appointed to it in Sept. 1974. CSI reconstructed as subsid. of National Westminster Bank.
Cedar Holdings section 123 co. Was quoted	128	Loans of up to £22m made available by Barclays Bank and financed through Lifeboat. These loans part of package by which institutions also put up £50m. Capital reconstruction 1975. Loans repaid within following few years. Taken over by Lloyds and Scottish in 1979 for £9.6m.
David Samuel Trust section 123 co. Not quoted	38	Provided with support loans. Receiver appointed May 1975. Went into liquidation Nov. 1976.

Company	Total assets (£m)	Experience in crisis
Deboff Brothers section 123 co. (Consolidated Finance Holding ult. Hk co.). Not quoted	9.5	Loan facility, initially of £2.5m, and ultimately of £6.7m, provided by National Westminster Bank, for a time under wing of Support group. Co. sustained losses leading to £2.88m deficiency by end of 1975. Settlement in 1979 under which £2.2m repaid and Natwest claim to over £4.5m assigned, against £50.00m payment leaving co. with positive shareholders' funds
Edward Bates and Sons (Holdings) Edward Bates and Sons subsid., a section 123 co. (Listed bank from Dec. 1973). Holding co. was quoted.	74	Received some support loans in autumn of 1974. Lifeboat buying out part of shipping loan portfolio. Sizeable Arab shareholding, and Middle East deposits, from May 1975. Later, reconstruction under which part of business recapitalised, emerged as Allied Arab Bank, with predominantly Arab shareholder and Barclays Bank International stake. Bank of England took over remaining assets of Bates bank for realisation through EBS Investments, now a Bank of England subsidiary. Holding co. in liquidation.
First Maryland section 123 co. (Ultimate holding co. owned by Mr W. G. Stern and his family trusts). Not quoted.	18	Provided with support loans. Receiver appointed in Jan. 1975.
First National Finance Corporation Listed bank (afterwards section 123 co.) Quoted.	543	Received support loans totalling £350m at peak. Capital reconstruction end of 1975, under which support loans divided into direct, deferred and income loans, with defined terms. Support loans reduced to £225m at 31 Oct. 1980. Net deficiency of £75m (30 Dec. 1977) more than held to £20m (31 Oct. 1980). Extensive programme of realisation of property and certain other assets undertaken.
Guardian Properties (Holdings) Was quoted.	48	Provided with support loans. Receiver appointed June 1974.
Keyser Ullmann Holdings (Keyser Ullmann subsid., a listed bank). Holding co.'s shares were quoted	433 (31 Mar. 1974)	Received support loans, of £55m at peak. Loans repaid by 1975. Stand-by facilities from clearing banks provided for a time thereafter; dispensed with from Jan. 1977. Taken over for some £43m in 1980 by Charterhouse Japhet bank KU banking company being absorbed.
London and County Securities Group Banking subsidiary a section 123 co. was quoted.	129	Received support from a special consortium and afterwards received Lifeboat support loans. Joint co.-planned by Bank of England and P&O in Feb. 1974 to run the banking co. Announced in Mar. 1975 that banking company to be placed in liquidation; its total deficiency estimated at over £50m. Group was the subject of a Dept. of Trade investigation report published Jan. 1976. Holding co. in liquidation.
Madena Trust section 123 co. Not quoted.	11 (30 June 1974)	Clearing bank borrowing facilities fixed up in late-1973 were continued with backing of support group. Borrowing facility provided by institutions shareholders used briefly and further available bank standby facility never required. Co. taken over by merchant bank group Brown Shipley Holdings in 1981 for £3.8m

Company	Total assets (£m)	Experience in crisis
Mercantile Credit Subsidi. section 123 co. Was quoted	377	Received support loans of £167m at peak. Loans repaid when Co. taken over by Barclays Bank for £32m in 1975
Morris Wigman section 123 co. (Subsidiary of Schiesinger). Not quoted	30	Received support loans of about £10m. Taken over for a nominal price in 1974 by Schiesinger Organisation, which repaid the loans. Schiesinger bank bought in 1980 by Slavensburg's Bank, of Holland
Northern Commercial Trust section 123 co. Not quoted.	90	NCT (apart from London loan business) taken over in 1975 by Allgemeine Bank Nederland, of Holland. Support loans of some £22m, previously provided to NCT, transferred to Knowlesy, by which London business of NCT taken over. Support loans on reduced scale still outstanding at end of 1980 to Knowlesy
Knowlesy section 123 co. (Initially owned by Authority Investments)		
Sterling Industrial section 123 co. Not quoted	33	Received Lifeboat loans and larger support loans from Crown Agents, a substantial shareholder. Co. became the subject of a controlled running down of its business under the aegis of the Agents. Later sold
Triumph Investment Trust G. T. Whyte banking subsid., a listed bank Group shares were quoted	203	Provided with support loans (from Lifeboat) of up to some £30m and some £5m, in addition to an existing deposit of £5m, from Crown Agents. Receiver appointed Nov. 1974. Now in liquidation.
Twentieth Century Banking section 123 co. Not quoted. (Owned from 1972 by Bovis, now subsid. of P&O). Both successive ultimate parents quoted	82	Received support loans. Acquired as part of Bovis group, by P&O in Mar. 1974.
United Dominions Trust Listed bank (Old Broad Street Securities subsid. a section 123 co.). Quoted	896	Received support loans of some £200m at peak. Prudential Assurance and Eagle Star Insurance put up bulk of £30m against convertible stock in 1974. Property lending cut right back and a range of overseas interests disposed of from 1974. In 1980, agreement for instalment credit business to be bought by Trustee Savings Banks. Remaining support loans almost fully repaid in 1980. Full take-over bid of £110m by TSBs successful in early 1981
J. H. Vavasseur Vavasseur Trust subsid., a section 123 co. (Group now part of Mills and Allen International) Quoted	52	Received support loans. Two capital reconstructions. Remaining support loans repaid, with the help of a clearing bank loan, in 1978. Co. effectively absorbed into Mills and Allen International in 1978
Wagon Finance Corporation Listed bank (finance house). Quoted	43	Received support loans, of some £8m at peak; these were repaid in 1976. Co. then accorded loan facilities, including some medium-term, from a number of banks and accepting houses

Business Editor

Non-executive directors

One is tempted to say the sooner the ACC situation is resolved and forgotten the better. Certainly, that must be true from the point of view of the company's business and its employees. If Mr Gerald Ronson decides that enough is enough and it is time to pull out, then the struggle may indeed be quickly resolved. He may, of course, opt to stay in the battle, in which case the saga could run on a while longer.

It would be wrong though to wish the whole episode quickly forgotten. The ACC saga ought to provide a key case history on boardroom behaviour. The Department of Trade may or may not see fit to ensure that such a history is written. But if it does not, then it would be a public service were one of the former non-executive directors to have the courage to seek a U.S. dollar 4,500 million loan from the Fund.

But clearly pressure is building up for tough action to be taken to iron out the imports and payments crisis now dogging Nigeria's aspirations and devaluation of the Naira by perhaps as much as 12.5 per cent is not ruled out. Resolution of Nigeria's economic difficulties of paramount importance to the national trading community but to President Shagari's hopes for a second term in next year's election contest.

about £33m a month and oil production has fallen from about 1.8 million barrels daily at the beginning of this year to about 1.2 million barrels this month.

President Shagari tried to tackle the incipient problems in his Budget Statement last November by imposing import controls and delaying priority projects in the public sector. A spending programme which forms a key feature of the Naira 80,000m (£41,000m) fourth development plan.

Yesterday confusion continued to surround the Central Bank's order to commercial banks in Nigeria to halt the issue of letters of credit and 25-05-82 of applications for foreign exchange.

Officials at the International Monetary Fund denied speculation that Nigeria might be seeking a U.S. dollar 4,500 million loan from the Fund.

Prudential Problem areas

The dire conditions in the general insurance industry were firmly underlined by yesterday's results from both the Prudential and Eagle Star — in the Pru's case with a dash of red ink. Premiums were 16 per cent higher at £1,187m, investment income grew strongly and life profits were some two-fifths higher at £41.5m. But on non-life the Pru came badly unstuck.

Nigeria Under siege

The announcement that Nigeria has suspended virtually all imports comes as no surprise. But the repercussions on suppliers to Africa's most populous nation will cause more than a few headaches, particularly to Britain. Britain remains the biggest exporter to Nigeria, with shipments in recent years running at more than £1000m — accounting for about one fifth of Nigeria's non-oil imports.

As one of the largest oil producers and exporters, Nigeria has fallen victim to the international glut of oil prices. For many other Opec members the glut and drop in prices can be tolerated, at least for a while, without unduly interfering with ambitious economic development plans. But the impact on Nigeria's industrial development programme and aspirations of the civilian Government of President Shu Shagari has been little short of disastrous, as predicted as they were on a high oil price continuing.

The country's trade deficit has been running at

Once again the life business has powered ahead. Premiums were 16 per cent higher at £1,187m, investment income grew strongly and life profits were some two-fifths higher at £41.5m. But on non-life the Pru came badly unstuck.

Overcapacity, the recession, and inadequate premium rates contributed to the problem. So did calamitous winter weather, though, despite this, the domestic property account still reduced losses. Canada also produced a soaring underwriting loss. But the real bugbear has been the specialist reinsurance subsidiary, Mercantile & General, which accounted for more than two-fifths of the increase in underwriting losses from £34m to £53m.

This year the Pru may find that premium income growth on the life side slows and lower interest rates are likely to affect investment income. But there are grounds for some modest optimism on the non-life accounts on the back of some hardening of rates in Canada and improvement in the United Kingdom domestic account.

SIRDAR Interim Report

Mrs. J. M. Tyrrell reports:

- * Half-year profits substantially increased.
- * Second-half year expected to be equally good.
- * Hand knitting market slightly more buoyant, but no very marked improvement yet.
- * Interim Dividend (net) of 1.6p per share (1981: 1.35p).

Summary of half-year results (Unaudited)

	28 weeks ended 30th January 1982	28 weeks ended 30th January 1981	Year ended 30th June 1981
Turnover	15,451	14,366	27,650
Trading Profit	2,801	2,350	5,202
Interest and other income	127	(55)	112
Profit before Taxation	2,928	2,295	5,314
Taxation (UK tax 52%)	(1,084)	(965)	(1,852)
Profit for the period	1,844	1,330	3,462
Earnings per share pre-tax	12.2p	9.61p	22.2p
Earnings per share after-tax	7.7p	5.5p	14.4p
Dividends per share	1.6p	1.35p	3.5p

Note: Earnings and Dividend figures have been restated to reflect the 1-for-1 Scrip Issue in October 1981.

Sirdar PLC

Flanshaw Lane, Alverthorpe, Wakefield WF2 9ND.

Adapted from "The Secondary Banking crisis, 1973-75", by Margaret Reid, published today by The Macmillan Press, price £20.

Prudential Corporation plc

Unaudited Group Results for 1981

Results and Dividend

Total profits for 1981 were £43.2m compared with £42.5m in 1980. There was substantial growth in the life profits, but underwriting losses in general business increased sharply. The directors have declared a final dividend of 8.0p per share, payable on 27 May next. This, together with the interim dividend of 4.5p per share paid in November, amounts to 12.5p per share (11.0p in 1980).

	1981	1980
Life:	£m	£m
Premium income	1,187.3	1,020.3
Surplus attributable to policyholders	608.7	372.7
Surplus attributable to shareholders	41.5	29.5
General:	£m	£m
Premiums written	569.0	456.0
Underwriting result	(59.0)	(33.9)
Investment income	46.1	33.6
Taxation credit	(12.9)	(0.3)
Profit after tax	(8.2)	2.5
Shareholders:	£m	£m
Investment income	19.8	18.7
Miscellaneous income	2.2	1.0
Expenses	(3.7)	(1.9)
Taxation	(3.4)	(7.3)
Other net income	9.9	10.5
Summary of Results	£m	£m
Life	41.5	29.5
General	(8.2)	2.5
Other net income	9.9	10.5
Profit for the year	43.2	42.5
Dividend	37.3	32.8
Retained profit	5.9	9.7
Earnings per share	p	p
Dividend per share	12.5p	11.0p

Life Business

Due to the continuing benefits of our considerable life fund investments in equities and property it has been possible to make substantial increases in bonuses to policyholders of Prudential Assurance both in the UK and overseas, at a cost of £508.4m (36% up on 1980). Profits to shareholders from this source have risen in proportion and together with higher profits from Mercantile & General and Vanbrugh have resulted in an increased life profit of £41.5m (£29.5m in 1980).

General Insurance Business	Premiums written	Underwriting result
	1981	1980
	£m	£m
UK	201.7	173.4
Canada	74.6	46.5
EEC	37.1	37.0
Other Countries	44.8	34.3
Marine & Aviation	11.8	8.9
Specialist Reinsurance	199.0	153.4
	569.0	456.0
	(59.0)	(33.9)

In the UK, despite the effect of the severe weather in December, the underwriting loss for the year showed only a small increase. Underwriting conditions overseas were particularly unfavourable and led to substantially greater losses. Reinsurance business suffered in addition from excessive competition world-wide. The total free assets of the group at the end of 1981 represented 49% (60% in 1980) of short-term general insurance premiums.

Investment Income

Investment income on short-term general insurance and shareholders' funds combined increased to £65.9m from £52.3m, a rise of 26%.



Prudential Corporation plc, 142 Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH.

BICC

Growth in fibre optics

BICC, Britain's leading cable manufacturer, exceeded market expectations with a 37 per cent leap in taxable profits from £74.6m to £101.9m in the year to December.

This was due to a strong performance from the international division, where profits rose from £40.8m to £69.8m pre-tax. Dividends for the year are raised by 10 per cent with a 10p a share gross final making a total of 14.72p against 13.39p.

The group spent £73m on acquisitions during the year, financed by the £72m rights issue, but Sir Raymond Pennock, chairman, said the group would now sit back and get profits from them before making further acquisitions. At 33p, down 5p, the shares yield 4.4 per cent and stand on a price earnings multiple of 13.4.

ARTHUR BELL

Profits cheer

Whisky industry sales are down at least 10 per cent this year, but Arthur Bell bucked the trend. Its pretax profits rose to £24.14m from £22.3m in the half year to December 1981, but its share price fell 6p to 110p as the City had been expecting profits of around £25m. Sales were up to £289.7m

market responded by putting 12p on shares to 186p — the high for the year, after the dividend was raised to 2.42p from 2.21p gross.

Trading profits rose £4.1m to £17.7m with the proportion from Scotch whisky up to £14.5m from £10.2m. The balance comes from a turnaround in the glass container division — to £222,000 against a loss of £560,000 and transport activities up £44,000 at £114,000.

PHILIPS LAMP

Bright competition

Under pressure from intense worldwide competition and the high cost of restructuring, net profits of Philips Lamp, the Dutch electronics giant, crept up last year by just 3 per cent to £1.35m (£1.25m). Sales grew by 15 per cent to £14.41m. The distribution to shareholders is maintained at £1.80. Of this, £1.00 is an interim dividend, £1.00 a final and £1.00 is to be paid from retained profits.

HEPWORTH

Dividend held

Hepworth Ceramic Holdings, makers of plastic pipes, vitrified clay and refractory products, saw pretax profits rise to £24.14m from £22.3m for the year to December 1981, but its share price fell 6p to 110p as the City had been expecting profits of around £25m. Sales were up to £289.7m

LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
in £m	£m	£m	per share	pence	pence	total
Armstrong Equip (I)	54.3(48.85)	1,380(74)	12.8(10.5)	0.35(0.45)	—	(1.49)
Arthur Bell (I)	146.5(137.5)	8,477(72)	28.1(23.9)	1.7(1.5)	—	(5.48)
Babcock (F)	122.3(119.1)	8,477(72)	28.1(23.9)	7.6(7.1)	3/6	13(12.5)
BICC (F)	1,004(1,064)	2,010(20)	3.2(3.4)	7.0(4.4)	1/7	10(9.5)
Blue Bird (I)	4.8(5.02)	0.2(0.29)	0.2(0.2)	1.4(1.4)	—	(0.3)
Church & Co (F)	35.5(32.24)	7.5(1.98)	20.2(26.8)	6(5.5)	—	8(8.9)
Clifford's Dairies (F)	18.8(18.2)	0.85(0.58)	13.1(17.8)	11(11.5)	—	(13)
Clifford's Dairies (F)	55.8(48.47)	20.1(21.55)	3.2(3.2)	21(21.5)	—	5(5.4)
DRG (F)	534.9(520.3)	15.5(18)	7.2(9.5)	3(3)	5/7	6(6)
Eagle Star (F)	—	73.9(85.9)	—	8(5.5)	15/7	15(10.5)
Albert Fisher (I)	3,081(1.97)	0.02(0.01)	0.02(0.01)	—	—	(0.31)
Hepworth Ceramic (F)	289.7(263.2)	24.1(22.3)	10(10.2)	3(3)	1/7	—
James (F)	16.1(15.31)	0.2(1.1)	3(3.6)	2(2.6)	—	2(2.6)
James & Shipman (F)	15.6(12.13)	0.5(1.2)	5.8(1.5)	1.0(1.2)	—	1.8(3.9)
Laird (F)	2.8(2.5)	0.1(0.1)	0.1(0.1)	2.7(2.5)	—	3(3.4)
Percy Lane (F)	22.8(19.6)	0.83(0.68)	7.4(6.8)	2(1.6)	1/6	3(2.6)
Maynard (I)	39.0(31.38)	1.3(1.32)	23.0(20.8)	3.1(3.1)	7/5	—
J. N. Nichols (F)	12.0(14.8)	2.5(1.2)	1.3(1.2)	5.5(4.4)	—	10(7)
Prudential (F)	42.4(135.35)	43.2(42.5)	14.5(14.2)	1.2(1.2)	—	1.2(1.1)
Rotokor (F)	162(170)	0.89(0.47)	2.5(10.28)	2.1(2.1)	21/5	2.4(2.2)
Sinclair (F)	21.0(20.3)	2.8(2.3)	1.3(1.3)	1.3(1.3)	18/5	—
Slough Estate (F)	15.4(14.36)	2.9(2.2)	7.7(5.5)	2.0(1.6)	24/5	3.3(2.7)
Swire (F)	13.2(14.4)	0.46(0.07)	8.5(2.1)	—	—	2(8)
Victoria (F)	603.8(483.2)	24.7(24.4)	22.7(24.4)	1.7(1.7)	1/7	12(12)
James Walker (I)	12.45(11.58)	0.29(0.67)	—	1.0(1.0)	—	(4.0)

Dividends in the table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown gross and earnings are net. A. Adjusted for long lease; L. Loss; C. Carry forward; F. Figures are in Dutch florins.

COMMODITIES

COPPER: Higher grades copper was steady. Afternoon: Higher grade cash, £250.00; three months, £250.00; six months, £250.00; nine months, £250.00; 12 months, £250.00. Lower grades cash, £250.00; three months, £250.00; six months, £250.00; nine months, £250.00; 12 months, £250.00.

COFFEE: Robusta (S per tonne): Mch 1375-1380, May 1371-1378, Jul 1365-1370, Sep 1355-1360, Nov 1345-1350, Jan 1335-1340, Mar 1325-1330. Arabica (S per tonne): Mch 1425-1430, May 1415-1420, Jul 1405-1410, Sep 1395-1400, Nov 1385-1390, Jan 1375-1380, Mar 1365-1370.

COCOA: (S per tonne) — March, 1004-1005; May, 1005-1006; July, 1006-1007; Sept, 1007-1008; Nov, 1008-1009; Jan, 1009-1010; Mar, 1010-1011. **CRACKED:** (S per tonne) — March, 1004-1005; May, 1005-1006; July, 1006-1007; Sept, 1007-1008; Nov, 1008-1009; Jan, 1009-1010; Mar, 1010-1011.

WHEAT: (The Baltic) — WHEAT: Canadian western red spring, No. 1, 11.10; US hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; US soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10.

MAIZE: March 11.55 (spot); April-May 11.55 (spot); June 11.55 (spot); July 11.55 (spot); August 11.55 (spot); September 11.55 (spot); October 11.55 (spot); November 11.55 (spot); December 11.55 (spot).

BARLEY: English feed, March 11.10; April-May 11.10; June 11.10; July 11.10; August 11.10; September 11.10; October 11.10; November 11.10; December 11.10.

ALUMINIUM: Standard in closed steady. Afternoon: Standard cash, £2145-2150; three months, £2145-2150; six months, £2145-2150; nine months, £2145-2150; 12 months, £2145-2150.

STEEL: (The Baltic) — STEEL: Canadian western red spring, No. 1, 11.10; US hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; US soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10.

WHEAT: (The Baltic) — WHEAT: Canadian western red spring, No. 1, 11.10; US hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; US soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK hard red winter, No. 1, 11.10; UK soft red winter, No. 1, 11.10.

MAIZE: March 11.55 (spot); April-May 11.55 (spot); June 11.55 (spot); July 11.55 (spot); August 11.55 (spot); September 11.55 (spot); October 11.55 (spot); November 11.55 (spot); December 11.55 (spot).

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ALUMINIUM: Standard in closed steady. Afternoon: Standard cash, £2145-2150; three months, £2145-2150; six months, £2145-2150; nine months, £2145-2150; 12 months, £2145-2150.

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MAIZE: March 11.55 (spot); April-May 11.55 (spot); June 11.55 (spot); July 11.55 (spot); August 11.55 (spot); September 11.55 (spot); October 11.55 (spot); November 11.55 (spot); December 11.55 (spot).

BARLEY: English feed, March 11.10; April-May 11.10; June 11.10; July 11.10; August 11.10; September 11.10; October 11.10; November 11.10; December 11.10.

PEOPLE

Sir Keith noted for kindness

The sudden death of Sir Keith Showering, 51, chairman and Chief Executive of Allied Lyons since 1975, robs his family, friends and business associates of a man who "played up, and played the game" in the very finest English tradition.

A sportsman on and off the field, he will be remembered as much for his qualities of kindness, charm and consideration as for his outstanding career achievements both in and outside the City. Sir Keith's colleagues were yesterday deeply shocked and saddened at the news of his passing. "It is a personal loss to each of them, and a loss to the company of a chairman who had considerable experience and a keen business brain," said Sir Derrick Holden-Brown, vice-chairman of Allied.

A fellow-director of Allied, Sir Alex Alexander, chairman of J Lyons & Co., praised Sir Keith as "a considerable man in every sense, in whom courage, ability and vision all combined to have a considerable influence in the worlds of industry, commerce and the arts".

It was in 1947 that Sir Keith, son of one of the founding brothers, joined the famous Somerset cider-making firm of Showerings Ltd, which through a series of acquisitions ultimately gained control of Allied. He was also vice-chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange Assurance, a director of the Midland Bank, and was knighted in the Birthday Honours last year.

Sir Keith combined a love of shooting and a keen interest in firearms collecting with the true countryman's concern for wildlife conservation. Since 1978, he had been a major shareholder in the gunmaker Holland and Holland.

"Sir Keith was an extremely loveable, kind and affectionate person," recalls Mr Malcolm Lyell, the managing director and a good friend.

Buckley enters the family act

Barrister Martin Buckley takes his place in a century-long family tradition of public life when he appears as co-editor of that standard legal work *Buckley on the Companies Act*. Published by Butterworth (at £150) when this work was first produced in 1872 "Buckley" was Martin Buckley's grandfather, Lord Justice Buckley, later Lord Wrenbury.

Lord Wrenbury saw editions one to nine to press (the ninth edition came out in

1909) but the tenth edition (1924) was edited by non-Buckleys. However the eleventh and twelfth were edited by Sir Denys Buckley, Lord Wrenbury's son and Martin's uncle. The thirteenth edition in 1957 was done by Sir Denys' co-editor, Brian Parker and others, among them Hugh Williams also a grandson of Lord Wrenbury. Martin Buckley who is co-editing this fourteenth edition (with Brian Parker) explained that the book involves more work than most non-Buckley barristers are willing or able to combine with practice at the Bar.

There will be a swing from age to youth indeed at British Transport Docks Board in May when Sir Humphrey Browne, who by then will be 71, hands over chairmanship to his 41-year-old nephew, Keith Stuart. Sir Humphrey, who has been chairman for 11 years, was asked to stay on in 1980 to see the board, Britain's biggest dock operator with 19 provincial docks,



through to privatization. At that time, it looked as if privatization would be going through about now, but now that it is now, it now looks as if the autumn of this year is a more likely date. Sir Humphrey is therefore stepping down at this stage so that the signature on the prospectus can be that of the man who is both in charge and likely to be in charge for some time.

Nicholas Cole

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Chris Longberg has been appointed chief executive of Simon Engineering. He takes over from Mr Harry Harrison who remains chairman.

Mr Ian McIntosh Henderson has been appointed group commercial director of News International. Mr Henderson is currently finance director of C. T. Bowring's insurance broking activities in London and has held senior financial positions with Brascan and Unilever.

Mr Christopher T. Woodcock has been appointed a director of Kirkland-Whittaker (Sterling Brokers).

Mr Charles R. Connell and Mr David A. R. Stewart have been appointed as directors of the Scottish Provident Institution.

Church

(Manufacturers and retailers of quality shoes)

66 Excellent overseas results contribute 52% of group profit

reports Ian B Church, Chairman

- Sales up 10% at £35.6 million.
- Pre-tax profits declined to £1.56 million owing to difficult retail trading conditions in the UK.
- Increased final dividend recommended making 8.5p for year (1980 8p) covered 2.4 times.
- Factories busy and exports exceptionally buoyant.

Comparative results

	1981	1980
Sales	£m	£m
Trading profit	2.26	2.73
Interest payable	0.705	0.776
Profit before tax	1.56	1.96
Earnings per share	20.2p	28.6p

Report and accounts will be posted to shareholders on 14th April 1982. Church & Co. PLC, St. James, Northampton NN5 5JB.



KENNING MOTOR GROUP PLC

Distributors and Retailers of Cars, Commercial Vehicles, Petrol Products and Tyres. Concessionaires for John Bull Tyres, Specialties in Service and Parts, Long Term Contract Hire, Car and Van Hire, Bodywork, Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles, Road Tank Vehicles and Remotely Operated Vehicles, Operators of Motorway Service Areas, Insurance Brokers.

Year Ended 30th September 1981	1981	1980	1981	1980
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Turnover	257,143	15,037	242,106	242,853
Group Trading Profit	14,998	2,386	12,612	16,586
Group Net Trading Profit before Taxation	3,549	4,452	(903)	3,996
Dividends Distributed	1,163	—	—	1,795

Following the lifting of sanctions and the receipt of dividends amounting to £438,000 from Zimbabwe, these companies have been re-consolidated this year.

Shareholders Funds £32.4m (Shareholders Funds & Reserves)	Capital Employed £32.4m (Shareholders Funds, Debentures, Loans, Deferred Taxation and Minority Interests)
Fixed Assets £59.6m	Net Current Assets £19.8m
Number of Shareholders 5,400	Number of Employees 6,451
Value of Groups Properties £34,831,000	Number of Apprentices 302

Copies of the 1981 Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, Motor Offices, Old Road, Chesterfield.



Vickers

Results for 1981

- * Profit before prior year interest some £5 million (25%) higher than 1980.
- * Value and volume of exports improved substantially but UK demand remained low.
- * Order books at beginning of 1982 higher than at beginning of 1981.
- * Extraordinary items of £11.1 million are in respect of retrenchments and closures which will improve the future efficiency of the business.

"Development of strategy will be aimed at concentrating and consolidating selected activities. This will involve, both in the UK and overseas, capital expenditure on existing businesses and acquisitions and may also involve selected disposals."

Consolidated Profit & Loss Account for the year ended 31 December 1

100

Stratford-upon-Avon 426

Stratford-upon-Avon 428

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. \$ Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

[illegible]

TOMORROW: BLOODSTOCK

POINT TO POINT
saunders in rehearsal for Grand National

by Ian Reid
The third of the traditional members' races over the course at Carborough, the Grand National, was won by a head by the favourite, Miss Saunders, in a field of 12. The 11-year-old mare, trained by Mrs. J. H. Saunders, was ridden by her owner, Mrs. J. H. Saunders, and was the only one to complete the race. The race was won by a head by the favourite, Miss Saunders, in a field of 12. The 11-year-old mare, trained by Mrs. J. H. Saunders, was ridden by her owner, Mrs. J. H. Saunders, and was the only one to complete the race.

SPORT

Indian King's red-letter-day to end Princes Gate purple patch

By Michael Seely
The familiar surge of expectation will be with us once again as the Princes Gate Stakes, the first race of the 1982 flat racing season at Doncaster this afternoon. By the end of the day we will know whether the ground is like and what side of the course is likely to be favoured by the draw on the straight course.

Rubstic enjoys day out

Rubstic, the 1979 Aintree Grand National winner, showed that he is no back number despite his 13 years when he ran in the 1981 season.

Doncaster

Tote Double: 3.5 and 4.5. Treble: 2.35, 3.35 and 4.35.
2.0 BROCKLESBY STAKES (2-yr-olds & 3-yr-olds, £1,707; 50 (12 runners))
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

Doncaster

3.35 BERTIE BASSETT HANDICAP (3-yr-olds, £3,258; 15 (15))
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15.

Mr Davies agrees to sell Aintree for £7m

By Michael Seely
After a lengthy session of debate, agreement was finally reached at 3.30 yesterday morning when Mr. Davies agreed to sell Aintree for £7m.

Worcester results

2.0 (2) PITCHFORD HURDLE (Novices: Div 1 £250; 20)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

Towcester

1.45 HANOVER HURDLE CHASE (Div 1 £1,000; 18)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

Towcester

2.30 TAUNTON HURDLE (4-yr-olds, £2,345; 20)
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

English rebels just fail to stop clean sweep by S Africa

From Eric Marsden, Johannesburg, Mar 24
The run-out off the last ball of a match which alternated between farce and melodrama, the English tourists were dismissed both in style and in substance.

South Africa
S. A. 100, run out
S. A. 100, run out
S. A. 100, run out

Great craftsman's 30-year itch

By John Hennessy
The old war horse, Neil Coles, impressively won through to the last six of the Sunningdale tournament yesterday.

Texan may find form on tartan isle

From John Ballantine, Hilton Head Island, March 25
It was at the Sea Pines Heritage Classic here last year that Bill Rogers, the tall, personable 30-year-old Texan, captured the imagination of the British Open.

Lillyman makes London pay a double penalty

By Sydney Friskin
After two days of hard labour in the field, Universities Athletic Union and Cambridge qualified for today's final of the British Universities Sports Federation tournament at Hadden-on-the-Wall, Newcastle yesterday.

Southwell

2.15, 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12.

Edited by Peter Davalle

Ed
milton.† 5.45

Radio 1

2. 7.00 Mike Read
3. 11.30 Dave Lee
4. 1.00 Nigel Burnett. 3.30
5. 4.00 Peter Powell. 7.00
6. 8.00 David
7. 9.00 John Peel. † 12.00

VHF Radios 1 and 2

1. 10.00 to 2. 10.00pm With
3. 10.00am With Radio 2

[illegible]

ENGLISH
 12:00pm-1:30pm
 Not for Women Only
 6.00 About Africa
 7.00 Crossroads
 7.00 Basketball
 11.00 Teenagers
 Word

SCOTTISH
 12:00pm-1:30pm
 accustomed As I Am
 6.00 Scotland
 6.30 Now You
 9 Emeraldale Farm
 10 Paper Connection
 11.00 Spits and Tossaws

TVS
 1.20 pri-1.30
 Not for Women Only
 One. 5.15 Radio
 to Coast. 6.35
 7.30 Emmerdale
 Surprise: Soap Industr
 and Teenagers. 11.30
 Closedown.

MIANTEL
 1.20 pri-1.30
 Crossroads. 6.00
 6.15 Ladies First.
 7.00-7.30 Benson
 8.34 Better Read.
 and Teenagers. 11.30

CONTROLS MEAN: ↑ STEP
NOTE: (v) REPEAT.

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[illegible][illegible]

arbitrator was not under a duty to justify his findings by producing documents for the

Solicitors: Mr V. J. Moorft
Area Secretary, No 14 (Lond
West) Legal Aid Area.

subsidy from the Greater London Council.

His Lordship was very tempted to accept the invitation to take the case separately, and to hold there was hardship because of all the trouble the executive had been put to, that it was financial loss, which was obvious, and that £8,000 was very loss.

But at the phrase "severe financial hardship" had to be read as a phrase. No one could say that going to bear the bill of £8,000 would make any difference to London Transport's affairs. Accordingly they could not recover.

into acquisition as a result, it was severe financial hardship, it would merely have to increase its outdraft, it would not.

London Transport might have to apply to the GLC for further funds, but any consequential loss in rates would be minimal.

Lord Justice O'Connor agreed.

After hearing further submissions, the court ordered Kelly's solicitors to attend before the court to consider whether they should pay the executive costs personally.

Solicitors: Mr V. J. Moore & Area Secretary, No 14 (London West) Legal Aid Area.

By David Walker
